

Silicon Times Report

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The Publisher, Staff &
Editors

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From the Editor's Desk...

Comdex Fall'96 is right around the corner. Adobe has its lineup ready to go and believe me, their new Pagemaker 6.5 and Photoshop 4.0 are extremely powerful and extremely user friendly. Printing and Artwork are going to be the big thing in the coming months. Users are growing weary of the dot matrix type of output and of course the runny ink of certain "bubble up-jet" type printers. Of course the idea behind the highly solvent ink had to be all about non clogging. Well so much for that! The first time a raindrop hits an envelope addressed with one of these jewels.. Smear city. Non smear. Colorfast bubble printers please. They are a reality now. The big news is Color Laser Printers. they are fast becoming affordable. Over the course of the next few months we shall be covering printers of many different flavors. One for every budget and purpose.

In the online world, the Internet continues to dominate the scene.. Of course, among the major online services, CompuServe still offers the very best value despite AOL's constant and I might add, goofy claims. I simply have to say this; "In my opinion, of all the services out there, AOL may be the biggest but for certain AOL is the saddest." Its overloaded, slow, and by far, too highly governed and controlled. Perhaps that's because the larger percentage of AOL's users are among the younger of the young generation needing "guided entertainment." Besides, its fairly obvious that even with all their boring promotions involving a constant flow of free disks, cds and other trash. they have yet to realize their highly structured

setup is ultimately going to be the only monkey on their or, should I say ..Steve Case's back.

CompuServe Proper. not WOW (an AOL-like clone). is indeed "The Place to be" when it comes to Online Services. The variety of solid information and product support is virtually unbeatable and only surpassed in volume by the Internet itself. But then, the 'Net is easily accessed from within CompuServe. In our humble opinion. CIS is "the name of the game" when it comes to Online Services.

Of Special Note:

<http://www.streport.com>

STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB/NewsGroup/FTP Site and although its in its early stages of construction, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution mailing list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. So, as of October 01,1995, you'll be able to download STReport directly from our very own SERVER & WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR list.

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LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Security Woes Plague Big Business

A lack of confidence in information security, widespread Internet access and increased malicious attacks by insiders have caused significant information security losses at major U.S. companies, according to a survey conducted by Ernst & Young and InformationWeek Magazine. More than half (54 percent) of the survey's 1,320 participants experienced losses due to information security and disaster recovery within the last two years. Adding computer viruses to the mix, the number rose to 78 percent. Significant losses were caused by malicious acts by company insiders (32 percent), malicious acts by outsiders (18 percent), natural disasters (25 percent) and industrial espionage (six percent).

Nearly three-quarters (71 percent) of the executives surveyed expressed a lack of confidence in the security of their computer networks, from both internal and external attack. "The threats can come from an unsecured Internet connection, a malicious attack by a disgruntled employee, the loss of a laptop with critical information, industrial espionage or just plain carelessness," says Scott D. Ramsey, national director of information security for Ernst & Young. "While companies spend more money on sophisticated computer hardware, they often fail to devote attention to safeguarding information systems, equipment and the people who use it."

The survey also uncovered that while most companies are using the Internet or Intranet for vital business functions, many feel that the information security measures for both are ineffective. While nearly 40 percent expressed dissatisfaction with the overall security level of their companies' Internet connection, less than one-third (31 percent) of the respondents said they could detect vulnerability to hackers who can dial-in through external Internet connections. In fact, 25 percent said someone had used the Internet to attempt to break into their system during the last year. To make matters worse, nearly three quarters (74 percent) lack a formal incident response team.

"As increased use of outside vendors and contract employees heightens exposure, organizations must start monitoring the connections between themselves and their service providers," notes Ramsey. "Companies don't realize that the moment they give computer access to a contractor, they are handing the keys to the kingdom to a short-term employee."

Lawmakers Pan Encryption Plan

A bipartisan group of lawmakers has panned the White House's recently unveiled data encryption initiative, saying it "shortchanges" U.S. business. More than 20 House and Senate lawmakers who have pledged to take up the issue when Congress returns to work next spring say in a letter to Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor that the new Clinton proposal is "flawed," adding it will not only hurt U.S. companies, but will leave law enforcement officials "behind the cryptography-curve."

The Dow Jones news service quotes the letter as saying, "We fear these defects will continue to leave U.S. companies at a disadvantage in the world market, leave users of U.S. encryption uncertain about the security of their information and leave U.S. law enforcement and national security agencies behind the cryptography curve." Among the signers are Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Mississippi, and Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Larry Pressler, R-South Dakota. The letter was circulated by Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon. As noted earlier, the Clinton administration has announced a plan to loosen export restrictions on data-scrambling technology under an initiative in which:

- Companies would be allowed to export strong encryption in return for a pledge to develop a "key recovery" system that would allow law enforcement officials to unscramble messages with a court's approval.
- Oversight of encryption exports would be transferred from the State Department to the Commerce Department.

Existing policy treats strong encryption technology as a "munition" that generally can't be exported. As reported, software makers argue the restrictions hurt their ability to compete in global markets, costing billions of dollars and countless jobs. Despite criticism, the Clinton administration continued to push its initiative. For instance, Attorney General Janet Reno told a meeting of communications lawyers yesterday the administration is seeking to balance privacy and commerce interests with the interests of law enforcement and national security.

Said Reno, "I want to make it clear that we believe that strong cryptography is critical if the global information infrastructure is to fulfill its incredible promise, but our ability to protect life and property is threatened by the prospect of unbreakable cryptography. I dread the day when law enforcement agents seeking to use legal, court approved wiretaps to prevent terrorist acts hear nothing but the hiss of encrypted communications they cannot decipher." As reported, measures were introduced in both the House and the Senate this year to liberalize the export rules without mandating a key recovery mechanism. "Lawmakers said they plan to continue to work on those efforts, which won praise from much of the computer industry," Dow Jones reports.

Court Blocks Junk E-Mailer

CompuServe Inc. says it has been granted a temporary restraining order to prohibit Cyber Promotions Inc. from falsely identifying their electronic mail as coming from CompuServe. Under the order, granted in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Cyber Promotions Inc. is required to stop using CompuServe's accounts, equipment or support services to send or receive electronic mail; stop inserting any false reference to a CompuServe account or CompuServe equipment in any electronic message; and stop causing their electronic mail to indicate it was sent from CompuServe or a CompuServe account.

"CompuServe's number one job is providing our users with the best online experience available. This is just one step in working to manage the problem of unsolicited or junk e-mail for our users," says Denny Matteucci, CompuServe's president of interactive services. "Our users have told us they don't want junk mail clogging their mailboxes and, frankly, neither do I. Junk mail is as unwelcome in cyberspace as it is through the postal service." The full text of the restraining order is available on CompuServe's web page at www.compuserve.com or on CompuServe at (GO CISCENTER) in the News area.

Household Net Access Doubles

Twice as many U.S. households now have access to the Internet as this time last year -- the current number is put at 14.7 million -- and a new survey figures growth at Internet-access providers has outstripped commercial online services. Writing in The Wall Street Journal this morning, reporter Jared Sandberg says Find/SVP, the market-research firm that conducted the survey with Jupiter Communications, determined that as of last month:

- Roughly 9 million adult Americans logged onto the Internet's World Wide Web daily, while nearly 20 million people signed onto the Web weekly. A year ago, 2.3 million logged onto the Internet each day, while 5.3 million users went online each week.
- Last year, 6.2 million households had access to the Internet, compared to 14.7 million now.
- Today some 38.7 million Americans over the age of 18 have tapped into cyberspace at least once.

"What's really dramatic," says Find/SVP Vice President Thomas E. Miller, "is the acceptance of the Internet from home. Consumers are ready for information access from the Internet." The study, projectable to U.S. homes owning telephones, was conducted by randomly dialing 3,255 U.S. households and interviewing adults at least 18 years of age. Of those households, 1,018 were found to own PCs and these homes were asked extensively about their computer usage.

"Increasingly," says Sandberg, "those users are bypassing commercial online services for direct Internet-access providers. . . . Though more than half of the Internet usage from home is provided by commercial online services, the number of users gaining access to the global computer network from Internet-access providers has more than tripled to 4.4 million households from 1.4 million last year." By contrast, says the researchers, commercial online services have grown only 28 percent, providing access to 8.9 million households, compared with 6.9 million last year.

Net Society Delays Address Issue

The Internet Society has backed away from a proposal to dramatically expand the number of addresses available on the global computer network. Instead, the group, which helps develop and coordinate Internet standards, will form a nine-member committee to study the issue, reports Aaron Pressman of the Reuter News Service. The group's original proposal was an attempt to quell the growing number of disputes over desirable address names, but society President Don Heath told the wire service, "There just seems to be no consensus at all."

Pressman says various objections and questions have been raised about the August proposal, from technical networking issues to concerns about protection for trademarks and intellectual property. Said Heath, "We

thought we should try to pull it all together and have a good cross-section of people to discuss it and see if we can't reach a consensus." He added the new committee ought to finish its work by early next year and new names could be doled out four to six months later.

The committee could decide not to go forward with any address expansion, but Heath said that was an unlikely outcome, adding, "The facts of life are that people want descriptive names and vanity plates." In August, Internet Assigned Numbers Authority said it would oversee the creation of up to 150 new top level domains, easing the squeeze, especially for names in the private sector category. The authority, operating under charter from the society and the Federal Network Council, is the central coordinator of Internet addresses and other standards.

"The society's board of trustees voted in June to accept a preliminary version of the numbers authority proposal, with the proviso that the business aspects of proposal be fleshed out," Pressman notes. "But with the ensuing controversy, the society decided a committee was needed to re-examine the proposal, Heath said. The committee will meet confer mostly by telephone and online, though an open forum is planned for mid-December in California." Look for the new committee to include two members appointed by the society, two by the numbers authority and two by the Internet Architecture Board. The International Telecommunication Union, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Trademark Association will each appoint one member.

240 MHz Processor Debuts

IBM Corp. and Motorola Inc. have unveiled enhanced versions of their PowerPC 603e microprocessor, including a 240MHz version that is the highest speed volume microprocessor for portable and desktop computers. The first adopters of the 240MHz processor are UMAX Computer Corp. and Power Computing Corp., which have each based Macintosh-compatible computers on the chip. Apple Computer Inc. has also expressed its support for the device. The 240MHz PowerPC 603e offers almost four times the performance of the original PowerPC 603 processor and exceeds by 20 percent IBM and Motorola's target of reaching 200MHz by end of year 1996.

533 MHz Processor Developed

A microprocessor that runs at a speed of 533 megahertz -- more than twice the speed of current PC chips -- has been developed by a 3-year-old startup firm called Exponential Technology. ET officials in San Jose, California, told United Press International the Exponential X will move into volume production in the 1997 second quarter at a price of \$1,000 each for large volume orders. It also will be available in 500- and 466- megahertz version.

Exponential -- which is backed by Apple Computer, Intochu, Venrock Associates and Woodside Fund -- said the device has been designed for desktop publishing, Web page creation, digital animation and high-end graphics and multimedia. UPI says the chip is designed to operate on machines running on Apple Computer and PowerPC systems. PowerPC is the partnership between Apple, IBM Corp. and Motorola Inc. to produce high-performance processors.

Apple Vice President Satjiv Chahil said, "Today's announcement will cause the industry to stand up and take notice. We think the Exponential X has the potential to redefine PC multimedia computing." Chahil added, "This innovation should be especially attractive to power Macintosh users who demand uncompromised performance for their high-end graphics and multimedia

applications."

Sun Micro Readies Net Computer

Watch for workstation giant Sun Microsystems Inc. to be a serious player in the new market for stripped-down "network computers." In fact, Sun CEO Scott McNealy is already demonstrating a working prototype. Writing in The Wall Street Journal this morning, reporters Joan Indiana Rigidon and Don Clark says that McNealy, appearing at Agenda, an industry conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, indicated Sun plans to ship the machines this year, though he wouldn't disclose prices. "Privately," they added, "Sun executives have said the machines would probably cost more than \$500. Many in the industry say the machines will cost \$700 to \$1,000." Network computers have become one of the most controversial new technologies since Sun and Oracle Corp. began talking about them more than a year ago.

"Proponents say the machines, which are far cheaper to maintain than PCs, could one day stamp out the multibillion-dollar market for PCs," the Journal observes. "They also see network computers as a possible way to slow the Microsoft Corp.-Intel Corp. juggernaut. Those companies' technologies run more than 80 percent of the world's PCs." Nonetheless, critics say the NCs may not be able to maintain a cost advantage over PCs, which continue to come down in price, adding the units are a throwback to decades past when companies equipped their employees with "dumb terminals" that relied on overtaxed mainframe computers to do all their computing tasks.

NC guru Larry Ellison, Oracle's CEO, got so hot on the topic yesterday that he got in a shouting match with someone in the Agenda audience over the viability of the market. The Journal says Sun is trying to sell NCs on "cost of ownership." Says the paper, "While NCs won't necessarily be cheaper to purchase than PCs, Sun and others say they cut the cost of maintenance by more than half. Since they don't store any software or data of their own, they never have to be updated, unlike PCs. Instead, they will use Sun's new Java network-computing language to download data and applications as the user needs them, Sun says."

Rewritable CD-ROMs Due in '97

Lower-cost rewritable compact discs are expected to hit the market early next year following agreement on technical specifications for the reusable CDs. Reporting from San Francisco, United Press International notes Hewlett-Packard, Philips Electronics, Sony, Mitsubishi and Ricoh made the announcement, adding that Philips said its version of the disk drive and software will be priced under \$1,000. Of course, hardware for rewritable CDs already is available but at prices in the range of several thousand dollars. John Boose, general manager of Colorado Memory Systems, a division of HP, told the wire service, "Users have been clamoring for the combination of worldwide interchangeability with media rewritability in a high capacity storage device.

CD-ReWritable fills that void and builds on the existing benefits of CD-ROM and CD-Recordable technologies." The standards include modifications to make the new machines work with drives for the widespread CD-ROM technology and the new digital video disc, or DVD, format. There currently are more than 100 million CD-ROM drives installed worldwide. General Manager Tadatoshi Sakamaki of the disc media & system products division of Ricoh noted, "CD-ReWritable media offers 450 times the capacity of a 3.5-inch diskette, much lower cost per megabyte, greater durability and a longer shelf life."

Apple Offers Photo Printer Option

Apple Computer Inc. is shipping the Apple Color StyleWriter 2500 Color PhotoGrade Print Kit, an option package that gives Color StyleWriter 2500 printer users the ability to print photorealistic color documents. The \$64 kit consists of a special ink cartridge, paper, printer upgrade software and an ink cartridge storage case. The kit also includes PhotoEnhancer Plus, a photo manipulation program. "As personal images, photo CDs and pictures on the Internet become more readily available, photorealistic printer output is becoming increasingly important to consumers," says Maury Austin, Apple's imaging vice president. "Our research shows that aside from Macintosh compatibility, color print quality is a feature our customers value in the Color StyleWriter 2500."

Canon Offers \$99 Adobe PostScript

Canon Computer Systems Inc. is offering \$99 Adobe PostScript software for its entire line of 200, 400 and 600 series color Bubble Jet ink-jet printers. "This exclusive offer to Canon users means that our customers can access all of the benefits of true Adobe PostScript for approximately one-third the cost they can get it from the competition," says Peter Bergman, vice president of marketing and customer care for CCSI. "Graphic artists and engineers ... can take advantage of the software to create accurate proofs prior to printing."

Canon customers can call Canon's Special Order Hotline at 800-385-2155 to obtain the specially priced version of Birmy's PowerRIP PostScript software. PowerRIP eliminates the uneven edges that occur when printing images on non-PostScript devices. Canon notes that the software reduces the cost of adding PostScript to a printer because it doesn't require the printer's on-board controller to have a second computer chip and additional RAM in order to run PostScript.

Motorola Plans Software Modems

Software modems -- that is, modems that are simply software that runs on a computer's microprocessor -- are being touted by Motorola Inc. and may spell the end for chip-based modems. Computergram International reports this morning the company's first products will be launched later this year and will be host-based software running on Windows95 PCs. Mike Tramontano, the company's product manager for information systems, told the newsletter the technology currently is being demonstrated to a number of personal computer manufacturers.

Also, he said, Motorola is expecting it to be incorporated in devices such as Personal Digital Assistants and television set-top boxes. "Although there is a hardware component in the form of a transceiver to interface with the phone line," says CI, "the company says its software modems will work out cheaper and lighter than current versions, as well as being more readily upgradable." Tramontano contends the devices won't be any less advanced than their hardware counterparts, adding, "We fully intend to have our software communications products keep pace with the features and function set of hardware-based modems." He says that in the long run, software modems will make traditional modems redundant.

Robotics to Fix Flawed Modems

U.S. Robotics says it will fix or replace versions of its 33.6 Kbps Sportster modems affected by a flaw that causes some of them to pause while exchanging data. As The Wall Street Journal noted this morning, the

company found the flaw in a data-compression algorithm and fixed it several months ago, but "an unspecified number of models sold earlier this year may be affected by it." Six of the affected modems are for Windows-based personal computers and two are for Macintosh computers. In some cases, a remedy can be downloaded from the company's Web site or other online services and bulletin boards.

Apple Boosts Product Line

Filling gaps in its consumer product lines, Apple Computer Inc. says it will sell two new models of Macintosh computers and will cut prices on some of its existing models by as much as 21 percent. Coming on the heels of news that it was posting unexpectedly upbeat fourth fiscal quarter financial results (GO OLT-236), Apple officials in Cupertino, California, told the Reuter News Service the company will begin selling the entry-level Macintosh Performa 6360 next week for \$1,499, a price comparable to entry-level personal computers based on Intel Corp. microprocessors and running Microsoft Corp. software. Reuters notes the Performa 6360 features one of the Apple's fastest microprocessors, a CD-ROM drive and a modem. Also, Apple plans to sell a new model with software that will let customers edit their home videos. The Macintosh Performa 6400/200, priced at \$2,699, features a built-in video-editing program from Avid Technology Inc., Reuters said. As reported, Apple discontinued some of its Performa models this summer to cut marketing costs, and the company now says it will cut prices on its high-end Performa 6400 to \$2,199 from \$2,799, and a model with a slower microprocessor to \$1,899 from \$2,399.

Apple Offers New PowerBook

A new family of portable PowerBook computers is being unveiled by Apple Computer Inc. to fill a critical gap in its product line. Reporting from Apple's Cupertino, California, headquarters, Kourosh Karimkhany of the Reuter News Service says the new PowerBook 1400 family is to be sold in mid-November with prices starting at \$2,500 and will feature a built-in CD-ROM drive and a bigger screen. Karimkhany says the models are designed to appeal to small office users and students, adding, "Until now, the lack of a CD-ROM drive in its portables has held back Apple in competing with offerings from (IBM), Compaq Computer Corp. and Dell Computer Corp. Analyst Bruce Steven of International Data Corp. told the wire service the new family "isn't going to put them in the leadership role, but it's going to get them back in the game." Reuters says Apple also plans to introduce another new series of PowerBooks in the first half of the 1997 with more advanced multimedia and communication capabilities. The company did not release any more specifications.

Apple Unveils School Power Macs

Apple Computer Inc. has announced three new Power Macintosh computers designed for use by teachers and students. The \$1,899 Power Macintosh 6400/200 is Apple's first tower system for education. The computer, aimed at high school and college students, is designed to handle sophisticated applications, realistic simulations and presentations. The Power Macintosh 5260/120 and 5400/180, two of Apple's most popular all-in-one models for grades K-8, provide 20 to 33 percent performance gains at prices \$200 to \$300 less than their predecessors. The systems are priced at \$1,499 and \$1,999, respectively. "For more than 20 years Apple has provided educators and students with powerful, easy-to-use tools for teaching and learning," says Mike Lorion, the computer maker's vice president of K-12 education. "Today's new line of PowerPC systems continues that tradition by giving educators the performance and features they need to meet their technology

challenges. Our aggressive pricing on these systems also allows Apple to maintain its price/performance leadership in providing desktop systems to our education customers."

French Move to New Phone Numbers

France's national phone company, wanting to aid transition to modems and cell phones, is enlarging the country's telephone numbers from eight digits to 10, effectively adding the potential for 410 million new numbers. Reporting from Paris, The Associated Press quotes a recent Finance Ministry report as saying the nation lags behind other Western countries in use of personal computers and cellular phones, and it placed some of the blame on the limited phone combinations.

The state-owned monopoly France Telecom had announced the change last year, saying it was running out of dialing combinations. Starting today, local French callers add two numbers at the beginning of the current eight. Paris numbers will start with "01," numbers in the northwest "02," northeast "03," southeast and Corsica "04," and southwest "05." Note: To call a French number from outside of France, omit the zero. Thus, dialing the Paris area from abroad, which previously required a 33-1 prefix, will not change. AP says the 10-digit numbers will boost France's capacity to 470 million phone numbers from the current 60 million and fill demand through 2050.

E-Mail Threat Brings Suspension

A Stamford, Connecticut, high school student received a visit from the Secret Service and a month's suspension from school after he sent a prank death threat by e-mail to President Clinton. Sent over the Internet Oct. 9, the message read: "To Pres. Clinton: You are Dead." Officials with Trinity Catholic High School told The Associated Press the message was sent by a 17-year-old senior. No criminal charges were filed, but Monsignor Frank C. Wissell, president of diocesan secondary schools, said the youth was suspended, adding the message was "a very immature, inappropriate joke that was not funny." AP says Secret Service agents spoke to the unidentified youngster, his parents and school officials. The agency would not comment on the investigation.

America Online Announces The AOL Members' Choice Program; Honors Excellence in Programming on America Online and the Web

DULLES, Va., Oct. 24 /PRNewswire/ -- Today, America Online (AOL), the world's most popular Internet online service, announced its AOL Members' choice program. This new initiative honors excellence in content programming and recognizes the most popular areas on AOL and the World Wide Web as determined by America Online's more than 6.2 million members worldwide.

"The Members' Choice areas and sites are the most popular content areas on the AOL service and the Internet," said Ted Leonsis, President, AOL Services Company. "From NetGuide and Excite on the Web to the New York Times and The Motley Fool on AOL, AOL Members' Choice areas and web sites represent content that has the broadest appeal and is of the highest quality."

Online winners are chosen using a formula that measures factors including how often AOL members access their areas. AOL Members' Choice areas on America Online are identified by the AOL Members' Choice Seal, a distinctive stamp of approval, that signifies to AOL members that the recipient is one of the top 50 AOL sites on the service. From exclusive content to national brands like American Express and ABC, AOL Members' Choice Award winners are the leaders in original and entertainment programming for consumers.

AOL Members' Choice on the Web showcases web sites recognized by America Online's members and are identified by the AOL Members' Choice logo on their home page. All online users can locate the sites of the AOL Members' Choice on the Web recipients by visiting America Online's web site at www.aol.com. AOL Members' Choice recipients will be honored at a black tie awards ceremony at America Online's Partners Conference on December 4, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Additional honors will be awarded at that event, in a number of categories, including "Best New Area/Site of 1996" and "Best Overall Area/Site." AOL members will be voting for their favorites in these categories over the coming weeks.

AMERICA ONLINE'S MEMBERS' CHOICE PROGRAM

AOL Members' Choice Award Recipients:

LoveAOL	Romance	Keyword: Love	
MTV	Musicspace	Keyword: MTV	
Motley Food	Personal Finance	Keyword: Fool	
Preview Travel	Reservations Travel	Keyword: Travel	
GLCF	Life, Styles and Interests	Keyword: GLCF	
Nickelodeon Online	Kids Only	Keyword: Nick	
Better Health & Medicine	Health	Keyword: HRS	
Net Girl	Internet Connection	Keyword: NetGirl	
Games Forum	Usage Games	Keyword: Games	
GemStone III	Games	Keyword: GemStone	
NTN Sports/Games	Sports/Games	Keyword: NTN	
Kids Only Chat	Kids Only	Keyword: Kids	
Chicago Online	Digital City	Keyword: Chicago	
WWF	Sports	Keyword: WWF	
Genealogy	Life, Styles and Interests	Keyword:	
Genealogy			
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Astronet	Life, Styles and Interests	Keyword:	
Astronet			
Extreme Fans	Sports	Keyword: Fans	
Hecklers Online	Entertainment	Keyword:	
Hecklers			
Federation	Games	Keyword:	
Federation			
Career Center	Learning and Culture	Keyword:	
Career			
ABC	Entertainment	Keyword: ABC	
Classifieds	Marketplace	Keyword:	
Classifieds			
Warner Bros.	Online	Entertainment	Keyword:
Warner			
Seventeen	Kids Only	Keyword: Seventeen	
New York Times	News	Keyword: Times	
ABC Kidzine	Kids Only	Keyword: Kidzine	
Sporting News	Sports	Keyword: Sporting	
News			

Kesmai Corp. (Air Warrior)	Games	Keyword: Air
Warrior		
Nintendo Power	Games	Keyword: Nintendo
Orlando Sentinel	Digital City	Keyword: Orlando
Sentinel		
Family Computing	Computing	Keyword: Computing
Pro CD	Reference	Keyword: Pro CD
Consumer Reports	Personal Finance	Keyword:
Consumer Reports		
Military City Online	Life, Styles and Interests	
Keyword: Military City		
Mac Games Forum	Games	Keyword: Mac
Games		
GamePro Magazine	Games	Keyword: GamePro
Music Message Center	MusicSpace	Keyword:
MusicSpace		
Hoover	Reference	Keyword: Hoover
Pet Care Club	Life, Styles and Interests	Keyword:
Pets		
Compton's Reference	Reference	Keyword: Compton's
Soap Opera Digest	Entertainment	Keyword: SOD
Destination Florida	Travel	Keyword: Florida
AnswerMan	Internet Connection	Keyword: AnswerMan
Cartoon Network	Entertainment	Keyword: Cartoon
PCFN	Personal Finance	Keyword: PCFN
Nick at Nite	Kids Only	Keyword: Nick

AOL Members' Choice on the Web:

WebCrawler	http://www.webcrawler.com
Excite	http://www.excite.com
GNN	http://www.gnn.com
ZDNet	http://www.zdnet.com
Deja News	http://www.dejanews.com
Magellan Internet Guide	http://www.magellan.com
Switchboard	http://www.switchboard.com
MTV Online	http://www.mtv.com
Riddler	http://www.riddler.com
Sportsline USA	http://www.sportsline.com
The Weather Channel	http://www.weather.com
Warner Brothers Online	http://www.warnerbros.com
Mapquest	http://www.mapquest.com
Jumbo	http://www.jumbo.com
Gamespot	http://www.gamespot.com
Liszt	http://www.liszt.com
NetGuide	http://www.netguide.com
iGuide	http://www.iguide.com
Tripod: Tools for Life	http://www.tripod.com
HomeArts	http://www.homearts.com
Windows Internet Magazine	http://www.windowsmag.com
NetGuide Live	http://www.netguidelive.com
Epicurious	http://www.epicurious.com
Extra	http://www.extratv.com
Salon	http://www.salon.com
City.Net	http://www.city.net
TechWeb	http://www.techweb.com
DC Comics	http://www.dccomics.com
Zippo's Usenet News Service	http://www.zippo.com
The Electronic Newsstand	http://www.eneews.com
Firefly	http://www.firefly.com
Urban Desires	http://www.urbandesires.com

SOURCE: America Online, Inc.

A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N

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LASER PRINTER

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A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N

Adobe Systems Introduces Adobe Photoshop 4.0

New Version of Industry-Leading Image-Editing Tool

Dramatically Increases User Productivity and Creative Control; Unprecedented Integration Among Adobe Graphics Applications; Enhances Image Production for the World Wide Web

Adobe Systems Incorporated is soon to ship Adobe(R) Photoshop(R) 4.0 for Windows(R) and Macintosh(R), a new version of the world-standard photo-

design and production tool. Available in 18 languages, Adobe Photoshop is the product of choice for graphic designers, photographers, Webmasters and multimedia authors for the creation of high-quality print, multimedia and Web graphics. This new version provides features that dramatically increase user productivity and creative control, allow users to work more efficiently with all Adobe's market-leading graphics prod "With more than two million users worldwide, Photoshop is the de facto standard for graphic design, digital photography and prepress production," said Bryan Lamkin, director for Adobe graphics products. "In addition, Photoshop has emerged as the leading tool for Web page production. With Version 4.0, we focused on delivering a robust product that gives our users increased functionality in areas that matter to them the most: productivity, creative control, ease-of-use, and image preparation for the World Wide Web."

Photoshop 4.0 Enhances User Productivity

The Actions feature in Photoshop Version 4.0 dramatically increases user productivity with the ability to automate editing functions, streamlining tasks such as image retouching and downsampling, file conversion, filter operations, and even batch processing of multiple images. A groundbreaking new feature for image editing, Actions allow users to process one image, or multiple images quickly and easily by recording functions as an "action list." Additionally, multiple images can be acquired from a digital camera and processed in batches, so users can be more efficient. To provide consistency within a production environment, Actions can be saved and shared with others. Users will also benefit from pre-saved Actions in Version 4.0 for tasks such as downsampling images to 72 dpi for Web posting, saving GIF and JPEG files with optimal Web settings, and adding drop shadows to text.

"Adobe Photoshop 4.0 is a big jump forward, providing users with enormous creativity and productivity gains," said Jeff Schewe, professional photographer and photo-imaging artist in Chicago, Illinois. "The ability to automate routine tasks using Actions provides a huge time-saving benefit."

The Guides and Grids feature in Version 4.0 makes it easy to build Web pages, or composites, providing greater accuracy in placing and aligning images. Users will be more productive with precise zooming and panning capabilities using the new Navigator palette. Also, when working with large images, Photoshop users will immediately notice significant improvements in responsiveness with Version 4.0 when scrolling, zooming, moving selections, and compositing layers, allowing them to work more efficiently.

Adobe Photoshop continues to lead the imaging market with support for the latest hardware and operating system advances, offering users increased functionality and performance. Photoshop users will benefit from dramatic speed improvements when using machines with multiple processors on either the Macintosh and Windows NT(R) platforms, due to Version 4.0's extensive symmetric multiprocessing capabilities. Photoshop 4.0 for Window users will also realize performance gains up to 6x throughout the application when running on the new Intel(R) MMX chipset, which is expected to be available in Q1 1997. In addition, Adobe Photoshop 4.0, which runs 32-bit native in Microsoft Windows 95 and Windows NT platforms, fully leverages the desktop improvements of these operating systems, including the soon-to-be-released version 4.0 of Windows NT.

Powerful Creative Control

Adobe Photoshop 4.0 provides unparalleled creative control with features such as Adjustment Layers, the Free Transform tool and Custom Gradients. With Adjustment Layers, Photoshop users now have the ability to perform image color adjustments without affecting the original image data. This allows for unlimited experimentation with adjustments such as hue and

saturation, brightness and contrast and overall color balance, and provides the option to "undo," or refine the adjustments at a later time.

"Adjustment Layers are outstanding and will totally change the way color correction and adjustments are done," continued Schewe. "With enhancements such as Actions, Guides and Grids and Adjustment Layers, Photoshop continues to be the most comprehensive, full-featured image editing program available."

The Custom Gradients palette lets users achieve new levels of creativity with the ability to customize multi-color gradients, with varying opacity, that can be saved and shared. The Free Transform tool preserves image fidelity with the ability to perform multiple transformations, such as skew, rotate, and scale, in a single step. In addition, Photoshop 4.0 doubles the number of artistic filters offered in the program by adding forty-eight new creative effects.

Adobe Photoshop 4.0 offers breakthrough technology for the protection of intellectual property with the addition of digital watermark capabilities. An industry first in an image-editing application, this feature allows users to embed an imperceptible digital watermark containing artist and copyright information in an image. When a watermarked file is opened, Adobe Photoshop 4.0 will automatically indicate that copyright information is present. Adding a watermark to images can also be automated with the Actions feature, allowing users to add a digital watermark to multiple images in a batch process.

Strong Integration Across Adobe Graphics Applications

User interface enhancements and improved interoperability available in Photoshop 4.0 will enable users to work seamlessly between Adobe graphics applications. Version 4.0 features an updated look-and-feel that will also be found in future versions of other Adobe graphics applications, such as Adobe Illustrator(R) and Adobe PageMaker(R). Common terminology, shortcut keys, menu structure, and Tab palette design that will be shared among Adobe products will give users a familiar interface and enable them to quickly become more productive with Photoshop and other Adobe software.

"Adobe's continual improvements to the interoperability between Photoshop and its other products such as Adobe Illustrator allows us to work much more effectively," said Josh Feldman, creative director for Prophet Communications, a Web design and content creation firm based in San Francisco, California.

Enhanced Image Production and Integration for the World Wide Web
Already an indispensable tool for print graphics, Photoshop bridges the gap between traditional print and Web publishing, providing the most robust features for the creation of high-quality graphics for both environments. The Actions feature in Photoshop 4.0 not only streamlines graphic artists' design process, but allows users involved in Web image processing to easily perform batch file conversions and downsampling, saving valuable time.

"Adobe Photoshop is the ideal tool for our graphics production and Web preparation needs. Features in Adobe Photoshop 4.0 such as Actions make the program even more indispensable to us," continued Feldman. "The Actions palette streamlines the process of working with different file formats while preparing graphics for the Web - a process that is very time-consuming. The ability within Photoshop to automate tasks through Actions such as converting files to different formats will save a tremendous amount of time and effort."

New file format support in Version 4.0 provides users with a broad range of useful Web file formats, including Portable Network Graphics (PNG), progressive JPEG and the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). Additionally, users will save time and money by having direct access to Photoshop product and technical information, updates and plug-ins, on the Adobe home page via a Web link within Photoshop 4.0. Adobe is the first company to provide dynamic access to product information from within a software application, and will extend this functionality to other Adobe products as new versions are released. (A more comprehensive list of new features follows in the attached Addendum.)

New Features Addendum

Adobe Photoshop Version 4.0 for Windows and Macintosh

Improved Productivity

Actions - The Actions palette enables users to record a sequence of editing steps as an Action that can then be applied to another selection in the same image, to another image file, or even to hundreds of files in a batch operation. Users can play an action with selected steps disabled or display selected dialog boxes during playback in order to interactively adjust the filter settings. The order in which tasks are executed can easily be edited by simple dragging-and-dropping functions. Multiple actions can be displayed simultaneously in the Actions palette, and sets of actions can be saved and loaded separately. A special feature of Actions is the ability to batch-acquire images from a digital camera, allowing for an entire set of images to be acquired, retouched, and saved to files automatically.

Version 4.0 of Photoshop provides basic support for OLE automation on the Windows platform and for AppleScript(TM) on the MacOS. Through these two scripting mechanisms, an external program can launch Adobe Photoshop, open image files, and run any named actions lists on those files.

The Navigator - The Navigator palette provides an easy way to move quickly to any location in a magnified image, by clicking the desired view area within a resizable thumbnail of the image. Users can adjust zoom levels on-the-fly with a convenient slider control, or specify zoom levels with greater accuracy in a numeric entry field. Users can enter preset zoom levels (1:1, 2:1, 4:1, and so on), or any continuous zoom level between 0.13% and 1600%.

Guides and Grids - Guides and Grids provide a means for accurate alignment of objects within an image file. Guides and Grids help users to align objects such as buttons on a Web page, and layer elements in image compositing. Guides can be pulled from the rulers to provide precise horizontal or vertical lines to which tool operations can be snapped. Similarly, the Grids feature creates a regular pattern of snap points across an entire image. Both Guides and Grids are fully user-definable. Guide settings are also recordable actions, making it easy for one person to define a specific guide setup to be shared with other users or applied to more than one document.

Powerful Creative Control

Adjustment Layers - Adjustment Layers in Version 4.0 allow for color correction via a mask through which an image adjustment is applied. An adjustment layer does not make permanent changes to the underlying image pixels, and therefore can be modified any number of times without any degradation in image quality. The standard image adjustments can be applied with an adjustment layer: Levels, Curves, Color Balance,

Brightness/Contrast, Hue/Saturation, Selective Color, Invert, Threshold, and Posterize.

Any number of adjustment layers can be stacked in the Layers palette, each adjustment layer modifying the layers that lie below. Adjustment Layers can be hidden or discarded at any time, or moved up and down in the Layers palette to affect different image layers. They can also be applied with the same opacity and blending mode controls offered for image layers. Color and tonal adjustments can be interactively "painted" on to the image simply by using any Photoshop painting tools on the adjustment layer.

Free Transform - The Free Transform command allows users to scale, rotate, skew, add perspective to, or otherwise distort a selected image area in a single step, making complex manipulations of images easier. This also results in greater image fidelity, because the image does not need to be recalculated multiple times.

Custom, Multicolor Gradients - The enhanced Gradient tool in Adobe Photoshop 4.0 now supports linear and radial gradients with multiple colors and varying levels of transparency. Actual colors can be defined for the gradient designs, or the current foreground and background colors can be inserted automatically whenever a custom gradient is applied. Users can save their own custom gradient styles and share them with other users on either Macintosh or Windows platforms.

48 New Effects Filters - Photoshop 4.0 now includes more than 90 filters, including 48 new filters that offer a wide range of artistic effects, such as colored pencil, crosshatch, film grain, and much more. Formerly offered as a stand-alone product, Adobe Gallery Effects,(R) these plug-in filters feature the updated, more compact Photoshop 4.0 interface, with dynamic previews. Each filter is 32-bit native, enabling greater processing speed.

Digital Watermarking

The digital watermarking feature in Adobe Photoshop 4.0 introduces an effective method for creative professionals to protect the copyright of their images. Using PictureMarc(TM) software developed by Digimarc Corporation, Adobe Photoshop embeds an imperceptible, digital watermark in any image. While not apparent to the human eye, this watermark is still readable even after an image has been edited, or printed and re-scanned. When a watermarked file is opened, Adobe Photoshop will automatically indicate that copyright information is present. A link in Adobe Photoshop accesses the Digimarc Web site, from which users can obtain copyright and artist information for registered images.

New Web File Support

Adobe Photoshop 3.0 provided support for transparent, interlaced GIF files with the GIF 89a plug-in. Version 4.0 expands the application's support for new Web file formats, including Portable Network Graphics (PNG), a lossless, portable, well-compressed RGB file format that can include mask-channel information; and, progressive JPEG, a compact file format supported by Netscape(TM) Navigator(TM) for displaying images with increasing detail as they are downloaded, reducing user wait time for viewing image-rich Web pages. Photoshop 4.0 also adds greater user control over JPEG compression settings, and enhanced support for transparent, interlaced GIF files. Additionally, Version 4.0 now supports Portable Document Format (PDF), the Adobe Acrobat(R) format common on the Web, and can write PDF files directly from the program.

Strong Integration Among Adobe Graphics Applications

Adobe Photoshop 4.0 features an updated look-and-feel that will also be

found in future versions of other Adobe graphics applications. The new refined interface found in Version 4.0 not only provides a cleaner work environment, but will also make it easier for users to work with multiple Adobe applications. Common terminology, shortcut keys, menu structure, and Tab palette design that will be shared among Adobe products will give users a familiar interface and enable them to quickly be more productive with Photoshop, as well as with other Adobe software.

Pricing and Availability

Adobe Photoshop Version 4.0 will support Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows NT, Macintosh and Power Macintosh, and will be available in 18 languages worldwide. The new version is expected to ship in Q4 1996 for the suggested retail price of \$895 and will be available from Adobe Authorized Resellers or directly from Adobe. The program will ship on CD-ROM (floppy disks available upon request for a nominal charge), and will include an interactive tutorial CD-ROM, stock photography, sample plug-ins, a digital gallery and Adobe tryout software. Registered owners of any previous full version may purchase the Version 4.0 upgrade for \$149. Upgrades from Photoshop LE to the full Version 4.0 are \$249. Users purchasing Version 3.0 on, or after, September 9, 1996, will receive a free upgrade to Version 4.0. For more information, customers may call 800-833-6687.

System Requirements

Macintosh - 68030, 68040, or PowerPC -based Macintosh running Apple System Software version 7.1 or later (7.1.2 or later on 603- and 604-based Macintoshes); 16 MB application RAM (32 MB recommended); 256-color or greater display adapter; 20 MB available hard-disk space for installation; 20 MB available hard-disk space for operation; and, a CD-ROM drive.

Windows - 386 or faster processor running Windows 3.1, Windows 95, or Windows NT; DOS 5.0 or greater required for Windows 3.1; 16 MB of RAM (32 MB recommended); 20 MB available hard-disk space for installation; 20 MB available hard-disk space for operation; 256-color or greater display adapter; and, a CD-ROM drive.

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The Rest Of The Story On Computer Costs
BBN Gets AOL Contract
Thwarting Cookies
PC Buyers Influenced Strongly By Salespeople
Complementarity Is Key To It Productivity
Should The Net Grow Up?
Billing Schedule Wiped Off Slate
Wired Tries Again To Woo The Stock Market
What Ted And God Think About Rupert
Internet-From-The-Home Doubles During Past Year
Agencies, Schools Compete For Internet II Funding
E-Rate Proposed By Clinton Administration
PICA Pushes For Cryptography Standards
European Commission Eyes Internet Regulations
Coming Soon: CDs That Can Read, Write And 'Rase
Customized Searching Goes Beyond The Net
Frontier And Quest To Build New Voice/Data Network
Andreessen Is Our Kind Of Guy
The Keyboard From Hell?
AT&T Picks Printing Executive As Its Heir Apparent
Agreement Reached On Fair Use Of Electronic Multimedia
New Sun Chip Provides A Java Jolt
Ergonomic Keyboards May Not Reduce Injuries
Now Microsoft Wants To Play Games
Corel Challenges Microsoft With Paradox Deal
Andy Grove Welcomes Japan's Inroads In PC Market
Child Pornography Hoax
Net Link To Neo-Nazis
Custom Campaign Buttons

VULNERABILITY FOUND IN "SMART CARD" SECURITY

Israeli computer scientists Adi Shamir and Eli Biham say that "smart cards" used by banks and credit card companies can be counterfeited by damaging a card by heat or radiation to cause the card's computer chip to generate an error that can be used to determine the code key and copy the card. (New York Times 19 Oct 96 p20)

THE REST OF THE STORY ON COMPUTER COSTS

The Gartner Group recently made headlines over its estimate that the typical networked PC costs \$13,000 a year to maintain. The breakdown on that estimate is as follows: 21%, or \$2,730, is the amortized cost of the computer hardware and software -- the estimate was based on a Windows-equipped PC, standard office software, and the wires, hubs, routers and servers that make up a local area network; 27%, or \$3,510, is the cost of providing technical support; 9%, or \$1,170, is the cost of administering the system; and 43%, or \$5,590, is the cost of the time the user spends "futzing" with the machine -- organizing the hard drive, installing software, waiting for the printer, playing Solitaire, and unproductively surfing the Net. (Forbes 21 Oct 96 p280)

BBN GETS AOL CONTRACT

BBN Corp. has signed a four-year, \$340-million contract to expand America Online's network. The new agreement extends a five-year, \$55-million deal inked last year by the two companies. Under the new arrangement, BBN will add a minimum of 70,000 modems to AOL's network each year, allowing the online service to accommodate that many more simultaneous users. AOL says its network already has 170,000 modems. (Wall Street Journal 18 Oct 96 A13A)

THWARTING COOKIES

For computer users who dislike the idea that Web site operators can track their repeat visits through "cookie" technology, there are several ways to block the software from collecting or relaying that information. PrivNet's Internet Fast Forward < <http://www.privnet.com/> > prevents the browser from sending cookies. The program can also block those annoying little ad banners, eliminating the time it takes to download them. Anonymizer < <http://www.anonymizer.com/> > functions more as a proxy service - the information is not given out unless the user grants permission. "Surfing feels anonymous, like reading a newspaper," says Anonymizer's creator, "but it's not. What Netscape needs is a feature saying, 'Look, I never want to see another cookie again.'" (Scientific American Oct 96 p50)

PC BUYERS INFLUENCED STRONGLY BY SALESPEOPLE

A new study by Dallas-based Channel Marketing Corp. indicates that only 18% of PC buyers really know what they're looking for when they enter a computer store, leaving the rest very vulnerable to the persuasive patter of sales clerks. More than 55% of computer store customers who made a purchase relied almost entirely on the sales clerk's recommendation, and 84% were influenced in some way by the store. "Customers are increasingly looking to salespeople to tell them which products to purchase," says Channel Marketing's president. (Investor's Business Daily 21 Oct 96 A6)

COMPLEMENTARITY IS KEY TO IT PRODUCTIVITY

Researchers at Columbia, Carnegie Mellon and MIT have come up with a new explanation for the apparent disengagement between increased investments in computer technology and productivity gains. The key to discerning productivity increases attributable to use of information technology is "complementarity" -- a theory that postulates that productivity gains from expanded use of technology cannot occur in the absence of a number of corresponding developments, such as the introduction of more flexible workplace structures, more delegation of responsibility to lower-level workers, increased skills training for workers and managers, and the installation of new infrastructure, such as Internet connections and "smart" buildings. New research shows that when these complementary factors are taken into consideration, investments in information technology do stimulate productivity and growth. (Technology Review Oct 96 p65)

SHOULD THE NET GROW UP?

The Economist magazine says that, faced with "pile-ups and pollution on the prototype information superhighway," there seems no alternative to government regulation and the acceptance of pricing formulas that bill users based on how much data they send and receive. (The Economist 19 Oct 96)

BILLING SCHEDULE WIPED OFF SLATE

Problems with the billing system developed for Slate, the online magazine on politics and culture edited by Michael Kinsley for Microsoft Network, mean that the magazine will continue to be free for at least a few weeks. MSN had planned to begin charging for the weekly publication in November. When the billing problems are resolved, Slate will cost subscribers \$19.95 a year. (Washington Post 19 October 1996)

WIRED TRIES AGAIN TO WOO THE STOCK MARKET

Wired Ventures, Inc., which owns the print magazine Wired, the Web-based publications HotWired and Suck, and the Internet search engine HotBot, is trying again to issue an initial public offering; it has valued itself at \$293 million, or about 12 times annual revenues (a valuation that is significantly lower, without explanation, than the one it offered last June, when the company declared itself worth \$447 million, or about 17 times annual revenues). Market analysts continue to be skeptical of the offering.

A partner at Sequoia Capital, a venture-capital firm, says that the Wired prospectus "reads like an issue of Mad magazine. A public company should be able to convince investors that it can grow in a sound fashion. On paper, Wired Ventures can't." (U.S. News & World Report 21 Oct 96 p68)

WHAT TED AND GOD THINK ABOUT RUPERT

In a deposition for a lawsuit filed by Time Warner to block New York City from using one of its channels on the Time Warner cable system to transmit Rupert Murdoch's Fox News Channel, Time Warner vice chair (and CNN founder) Ted Turner calls Murdoch a "slimy" and "very dangerous" person who "bought the government of New York City" by employing the mayor's wife, giving him large political contributions, endorsing him, and "God knows what else." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 19 Oct 96 E4)

INTERNET-FROM-THE-HOME DOUBLES DURING PAST YEAR

The number of U.S. households linked to the Internet doubled during the past year to 14.7 million, according to Find/SVP, which conducted its most recent survey with Jupiter Communications. And while commercial online services provide access for 8.9 million of those households (up 28% from last year), plain-vanilla Internet service providers are increasing their presence, providing access to 4.4 million households (up from 1.4 million last year). "What's really dramatic is the acceptance of the Internet from home," says Find/SVP's VP. "Consumers are ready for information access from the Internet." (Wall Street Journal 21 Oct 96 B11)

AGENCIES, SCHOOLS COMPETE FOR INTERNET II FUNDING

Federal agencies are vying for their share of the Clinton administration's proposed \$100 million Internet II funding, with the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, NASA, the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the National Institutes of Health all slated for a piece of the pie. These same agencies were involved in the High Performance Computing and Communications program initiated at the end of the Bush administration. At the same time, eight more colleges and universities have signed on as charter members of the project, and coalition members are beginning to jockey for position. Ira Fuchs, president of the Corporation for Research and Educational Networking, says it's important to remember the needs of smaller schools, too: "Right now, it is an elite group. We want to make sure it's not an elitist group." (Chronicle of Higher Education 25 Oct 96 A29)

E-RATE PROPOSED BY CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

The Clinton administration has presented a framework for a discounted "E-rate" for telecommunications services to educational institutions. Under the two-tiered pricing proposal presented to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service last week, schools and libraries would receive first-tier services at no charge. This would include "basic connectivity and Internet access, at adequate transmission speeds." The second tier of services would be discounted. Further discounts would be available for schools and libraries in "high-cost or low-income areas." (Education Week on the Web 16 Oct 96)

PICA PUSHES FOR CRYPTOGRAPHY STANDARDS

The Platform Independent Cryptography Application Programming Interface Alliance (PICA) has endorsed a set of cryptography standards to assist developers in creating security features for new software. PICA members include Apple, IBM, JavaSoft, Motorola, Netscape, Nortel, Novell, RSA Data Security Inc. and Silicon Graphics. Notably missing is Microsoft, which recently released its own cryptography standard, available for free to developers. "Ultimately, they all have to play together," says an analyst at Zona Research Inc. "Unless you include the Microsoft world there is no

choice." (Interactive Age Digital 18 Oct 96)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION EYES INTERNET REGULATIONS

The European Commission has recommended a voluntary code of conduct on the Internet, and suggests that increased use of software labeling and filtering systems could be used to stop the spread of offensive electronic material. "The problem right now is that the labeling and filtering systems are not compatible," says a Commission spokesman, who notes that the new Platform or Internet Content Selection (PICS) is the best candidate for becoming a universal filtering standard. In addition, a Commission report says that "a common European framework to clarify the administrative rules and regulations which apply to access providers and most providers should be assessed... In order to ensure that users have access to rating systems suitable to their needs and in order to avoid a situation whereby they have to rely on rating systems developed for the U.S. where there may be a different approach on what is suitable content for minors, encouragement should be given to setting up European rating system." (BNA Daily Report for Executives 17 Oct 96 A4)

COMING SOON: CDs THAT CAN READ, WRITE AND 'RASE

Philips Electronics N.V., Hewlett-Packard and others have unveiled an erasable CD-ROM, called CD-RW, or CD-ReWritable. Backers of the new technology say that erasable CDs will become a flexible new storage solution, holding 450 times more data than a typical floppy. Critics fear that "Consumers will be confused," says an industry analyst, who points out that CD-RWs can't be played on most of the currently installed CD-ROM drives. CD-RW drives will appear in the first quarter of 1997, and eventually will replace today's CD-ROM drives. HP hopes to market a temporary solution called "MultiRead" to enable all new CD-ROM drives to handle CD-RW discs. CD-RW technology differs from CD-Recordable (CD-R) technology, which can be recorded on only once. If a mistake is made, the disc is worthless. Meanwhile, the new DVD (digital video disc) drives that will be coming out next year will be able to handle CD-RW discs. (Investor's Business Daily 22 Oct 96 A8)

CUSTOMIZED SEARCHING GOES BEYOND THE NET

Gerd Meissner, who helped customize the German edition of Edupage, has developed a search service called BOB, The Human Search Engine, which combines searches of the Net with searches beyond the Net, to help you when you're looking for such things as: a special German saying? A bookstore in Bavaria? Or an old pal's address in Paderborn? From the requests made by private users, schools and non-profit organizations, the service chooses at least one every week to research and answer via e-mail -- for free. U.S. customers are welcome. The address is info@adline.de or < http://www.adline.de >.

FRONTIER AND QUEST TO BUILD NEW VOICE/DATA NETWORK

Rochester, N.Y.-based Frontier Corporation, the nation's fifth-largest long-distance phone service provider, is joining with Quest Communications, which is in the network construction business, to build a \$2-billion national voice/data network that will connect almost 100 cities and provide Frontier a 25-year lease for up to a third of the network's carrying capacity. (New York times 22 Oct 96 C4)

ANDREESSEN IS OUR KIND OF GUY

Netscape co-founder and programming whiz Marc Andreessen admitted on the Charlie Rose TV show that his home PC crashes regularly; that he hasn't been able to get his printer or CD-ROM drive to work; and that he has not yet figured out how to program his VCR. We feel his pain. (Computerworld 21 Oct 96 p138)

THE KEYBOARD FROM HELL?

The QWERTY keyboard, replete with arcane keys such as "Print Screen," "Scroll Lock" and "Pause," is a source of frustration to hardware makers, who say the keyboard will be the last part of the PC to be redesigned, because what's available now works for most people. Donald Norman, an Apple fellow, has another opinion, however: "The keyboard is the most bizarre, ridiculous, nondesigned monstrosity foisted on the American public. We've put huge amounts of effort into the design of the things you see on the screen, but the keyboard seems handed down by God -- and it's an evil god... Everybody will agree it should be fixed. So we'll put it on the list. But this list is long, and when it comes to ordering it in importance, the keyboard is just never quite important enough to get our attention." A New York-based designer and editor concurs: "The keyboard is the most humiliating and despicable object we have to work with in our daily lives." (Wall Street Journal 22 Oct 96 B1)

AT&T PICKS PRINTING EXECUTIVE AS ITS HEIR APPARENT

AT&T has chosen John R. Walter, chairman of the R.H. Donnelley & Sons printing company, as its new president and designated successor to current AT&T chief executive and chairman Robert Allen. The selection has disappointed many industry analysts, who were surprised by the company's decision to hire someone without experience in the telecommunications industry. But Walter was able to recast Donnelley from a traditional printing company into an information provider, using digital printing and CD-ROMs. (New York Times 24 Oct 96 A1)

AGREEMENT REACHED ON FAIR USE OF ELECTRONIC MULTIMEDIA

A committee of educators and publishers, sponsored by the Consortium of College & University Media Centers, has developed a set of "fair use" guidelines for professors and students who want to use copyrighted material in CD-ROMs and multimedia projects. The new guidelines set limits on the amount of a copyrighted work that "reasonably" may be used -- for example, 10 percent or 30 seconds, whichever is less, of an individual musical work. Limits are also set on the number of copies that professors or students can make of their newly created CD-ROMs or videos. Schools that want to use such works in distance learning programs must restrict access to students enrolled in the class through use of passwords or other technologies. More than a dozen academic and industry groups have endorsed the guidelines, and further support is being sought. (Chronicle of Higher Education 25 Oct 96 A28)

NEW SUN CHIP PROVIDES A JAVA JOLT

As Sun Microsystems prepares to roll out its first network computer, it's also debuting picoJava -- the core of the microprocessors that Sun plans to market to makers of future Java-based devices. Chips with the picoJava core have the Java instruction set embedded in them, making them faster, cheaper, and platform-independent. The chips will be used to power NCs, peripherals, cell phones and pagers. "We do not expect our chip to go into PCs," says a Sun manager. "It has no ability to run compiled code for binary applications. What we are trying to do with this chip is to extend the Java paradigm to other devices that can live on the network, yet the code can be kept somewhere else." (Information Week 14 Oct 96 p32)

ERGONOMIC KEYBOARDS MAY NOT REDUCE INJURIES

A new study by researchers at CTDNews, a newsletter devoted to coverage of repetitive stress injuries in the workplace, reports that there is no evidence that ergonomic keyboards reduce injuries or increase performance. A number of models were tested, including Microsoft's Natural Keyboard and

Apple's Extended Keyboard. In some cases, researchers found that the ergonomic keyboards actually created problems, particularly among hunt-and-peck typists who were confused by the altered configuration. CTDNews suggests that instead of purchasing new keyboards, companies should pay more attention to the proper arrangement of desks, chairs, monitors and keyboards for a repetitive-stress-injury-free work environment. (Investor's Business Daily 23 Oct 96 A6)

NOW MICROSOFT WANTS TO PLAY GAMES

Microsoft is setting its sights on the PC game market, readying titles such as "Monster Truck Madness," "NBA Full Court Press," and "Deadly Tide" for Christmas shoppers. "Our whole marketing strategy is to create hits," says Microsoft's games marketing manager. "It only takes two or three hit titles to establish a company as a leader." At the same time, the company has hired Alexey Pajitnov, the Russian-born creator of the best-selling game Tetris, to develop puzzle and mind-teaser games for next year. These kinds of games are aimed at women and girls, who enjoy straining their brains more than action-oriented males. "The action titles are a little bit more attractive, but they don't have so long a life as puzzle games," says Pajitnov, who admits his sons prefer the action scene. "Most of the action games, you play it and throw it away. Puzzle games people play for a longer time." (Wall Street Journal 24 Oct 96 B4)

COREL CHALLENGES MICROSOFT WITH PARADOX DEAL

Corel has bought the rights to the Paradox database software from Borland, in a licensing arrangement that gives Corel effective ownership of Paradox and makes Corel responsible for developing, marketing, sales and support for the Paradox line of products. The deal gives Corel access to the installed base of 1.5 million Paradox users and the company plans to cross-market some of its own software to these users. Borland VP Bill Jordan said the company wants to focus on its software development business. Coverage noted it would also be more difficult for Borland to sell Paradox as a stand-alone product now that Corel has bundled it into its Office suite -- which costs about the same as what Paradox charges for its own. (Toronto Financial Post 23 Oct 96 p14)

ANDY GROVE WELCOMES JAPAN'S INROADS IN PC MARKET

Intel CEO Andy Grove sees salvation in the advances of Japanese PC makers into the U.S. market: "I view myself as being in a heroic battle against the TV as the center of the entertainment world, and this is a colossal step in the progress we're making." The editor of an industry newsletter concurs: "Traditional PC makers have probably pushed the consumer market as far as they can. It will take outsiders with consumer electronics experience like Toshiba and Sony to break into a larger consumer market." (Fortune 28 Oct 96 p140)

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY HOAX

The FBI is saying that a recent widely distributed e-mail message inviting recipients to buy child pornography is a hoax; the message was apparently sent from New York City. (Ottawa Citizen 23 Oct 96 A4)

NET LINK TO NEO-NAZIS

The neo-Nazi Heritage Front has outraged Canada's Reform party by suggesting on the Internet that they are allies. The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center discovered the Heritage Front-Reform link while scrutinizing the racist organization's World Wide Web site. The site details what the movement stands for -- such as an end to high immigration levels -- and then invites users to link to five other sympathetic groups, including racist groups and Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel. (Toronto Star 22 Oct 96 A10).

CUSTOM CAMPAIGN BUTTONS

In a promotional demonstration set up near voting sites in six cities across the U.S., Microsoft, Eastman Kodak and Hewlett-Packard technologies are being used to allow voters to create their own campaign buttons, sporting their mug next to the presidential candidate of choice. The booths showcase Microsoft's Picture It! software, which will go on sale next month. The company is tracking which candidate is most popular in the button category and will announce their "winner" prior to election day. (Investor's Business Daily 24 Oct 96 A6)

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The CAUSE organization's annual conference on information technology in higher education is scheduled for the end of this month in New Orleans. The conference will bring together administrators, academicians and other managers of information resources. For full conference information check out <<http://cause-www.colorado.edu>> or send e-mail to conf@cause.colorado.edu.

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CS30 STR Overview

CompuServe's New Software is SUPERB!

by R. F. Mariano

Sure you have learned a few new things but for goodness' sake, this software is worth the effort. Especially when one views the obvious improvements over the previous version of what was available. The software is free which is amazing to begin with. You see, it embarrasses anything available from the other Online Services and most certainly the software package from AOL pales heavily when compared to this neat software package.

At first, the color scheme seems to appear a bit heavy.. (if that's a good descriptor) but after a few minutes of use you soon realize there is a method to the madness. The color scheme is definitely easier on the eyes than anything I've seen yet. (no, my eyes are not that bad) In all fairness to previous versions of issued CIS software, this new package has put the enjoyment and adventure back into using CompuServe.

CompuServe 3.0.1(FREE)

REDESIGNED MULTIMEDIA INTERFACE

- Multimedia capabilities provide a sensory rich, enhanced experience.
- Extensively user-tested interface helps customers find content and features more quickly and easily.
- Text and file viewer enables viewing a variety of file types including Word, Excel, and others even if you don't have the software.
- Multimedia components such as high-performance graphics rendering, and a sound and movie player are provided or integrated into the software.
- "Learn About" area provides tips and information on how to use the software.

CHOICE OF WEB BROWSER

- CompuServe 3.0.1 for Windows offers a new integrated Web browser from Microsoft, Internet Explorer version 3.0.1.
- CompuServe 3.0.1 for Macintosh offers a new external Web browser from Microsoft, Internet Explorer version 2.0.
- Or, you may easily use any Windows or Macintosh external browser of your choice.

MULTI-TASKING SAVES TIME

- CompuServe 3.0.1 saves you time and money. You don't have to wait for a task to complete before moving onto another. For example, you can chat and retrieve a file at the same time.
- A "To Do" list enables you to queue up and set off multiple tasks in a background session, making it more efficient than ever to retrieve files online.

PERSONALIZED AND CUSTOMIZED

- CompuServe 3.0.1 features information management tools that can help you get the most out of CompuServe.
- Organize and personalize the customizable features of CompuServe 3.0.1, like the new "Recent Places" pop-up menu that tracks services you visited, or your list of "Favorite Places," which is sortable by location, date and priority.
- Additional features that let you get your information "your way" include:
 1. a customizable Toolbar
 2. a connect Clock that's easy to reset
 3. a more efficient Address Book
 4. a new Mail Indicator
 5. a new and improved searchable Filing Cabinet and easy-to-use help documentation.

ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE ON CD

- In addition to receiving CompuServe 3.0.1, the CD will also have the following software:
 1. Adobe Acrobat for Windows and Macintosh
 2. Microsystem's CyberPatrol for Windows and Macintosh
 3. WorldsAway for Windows and Macintosh
 4. Air Warrior II for Windows
 5. WinZip for Windows
 6. Internet Phone for Windows
 7. Surefind for Windows
 8. Much More!

How to make a new Dial-up Networking connectoid for CompuServe 3.0.1

1. Double-click on the "My Computer" then double-click the "Dial-up Networking" icon.
2. Double-click on "Make new connection"
3. Enter a name for the connection(i.e., Compuserve) then click Next.
4. Enter in the local CompuServe access phone number you call and then click Next.
5. Click Finish.
6. Right mouse click on the new connectoid you just made(i.e., Compuserve) and choose Properties.
7. Uncheck "Use country code and area code" if necessary.
8. Click on the "Server Type" button.
9. In the "Type of Dial-up Server" dropdown choose "CISPPP:PPP connection for CompuServe networks".
10. Click OK, then OK again and then close the Dial-up Networking window.
11. Open CompuServe 3.0 and from the menu choose Access then Preferences.
12. The "Winsock:" should be "Dial-up Networking".
13. Change the "Connect using:" to the new connectoid you just made(i.e., Compuserve).
14. Then click OK.

Setting up Windows NT 4.0 RAS for connecting to CompuServe

Unless otherwise noted all settings or selections not specifically mentioned should be left at their default entries.

1. Go to Start|Settings|Control Panel and double-click on the Network icon. Then Choose the Services tab and if Remote Access Service is not on the list, add it by choosing the Add button.
2. Go to Start|Programs|Accessories|Dial-up Networking and choose the New button.
3. On the New Phonebook Entry Wizard window enter CompuServe for the name and choose Next.
4. On the Server window put checks in all three boxes and choose Next.
5. On the Phone Number window enter your local CompuServe Access phone number and choose Next. Enter any Alternate numbers by choosing Alternate.
6. On the Serial Line Protocol window select Point-to-Point Protocol and then choose Next.
7. On the Login Script window Select Automate with this script, then select CIS.SC in the drop-down list and then choose Next.
8. On the IP Address window leave all zeros and choose Next.
9. On the Name Server Addresses window enter 149.174.211.5 in the DNS server field, leave the WINS server blank and choose Next.
10. On the New Phonebook Entry Wizard choose Finish.
11. On the Dial-up Networking window choose More, then select Edit entry and modem properties. You can also choose Create shortcut to entry on this menu to place a shortcut icon on your desktop.
12. On the Edit Phonebook entry window select the Server tab and choose TCP/IP Settings.
13. On the PPP TCP/IP Settings window enter 149.174.213.5 in the Secondary DNS field and choose OK. Then choose OK again.
14. Choose Dial on the Dial-up Networking window. On the Connect to CompuServe window enter your CompuServe User ID number(with the comma) in the User Name field and your password in the Password field. Leave the Domain field empty and check Save password if you want to save the password.
15. Click on OK to dial. Do not disturb the Terminal window but watch and if you get "?? LOGINE - Invalid entry - try again" that means your password is incorrect.
16. On the Taskbar there will be the Dial-up Network icon in the Systray. If you right click on this icon you can hangup the connection or select Open Dial-up Monitor to get information about your connection, including the DCE connection speed(baud rate) and your IP address(Details button).

Apple/Mac Section
John Deegan, Editor

Lexmark in your Future? STR Infofile

Lexmark Launches New Advertising Campaign to Support Consumer Printer Sales

Campaign uses humor to build Lexmark brand awareness

Lexington, Ky, October 7, 1996... Lexmark International, Inc., one of the world's fastest growing printing solution companies, today unveiled a new advertising campaign executed by San Francisco-based Goldberg Moser O'Neill (GMO) to promote its line of color inkjet printers in the United States. The campaign is the latest wave of the multi-million dollar global brand

building campaign which was launched with GMO and Grey Advertising in July 1996.

The campaign candidly addresses Lexmark's recent entry into the retail market by providing humorous advice to help consumers weed through market misperceptions and hype. The advertisements educate consumers by anticipating obstacles they will encounter when deciding to buy Lexmark printers ("How To Sell Yourself A Lexmark"), and then rewarding them for making the correct choice (a \$5 coupon good on a print cartridge as a "commission"). The ads will appear in newspapers and business and consumer magazines in the nation's top ten markets, radio in five of those markets, computer enthusiast magazines and online.

"While we have good awareness and an excellent reputation among our business users, we've had only a short time to build brand awareness with consumers. We decided to take a very direct approach that acknowledges our awareness shortcomings and positions us as a friendly company. It also articulates why consumers should buy Lexmark," said Susan Gauff, vice president of corporate communications at Lexmark. "This campaign suggests that bigger doesn't always mean better and seeks to provide some practical tips for comparing the many color printer choices in the market today."

"With so much noise in the high-tech marketplace today, consumers are looking for some straight talk on products," added Fred Goldberg, Chairman and CEO of GMO. "This campaign cuts through the fluff and provides good, solid reasons for choosing a Lexmark printer. Consumers will find the advertisements refreshingly candid and entertaining." This new campaign does not affect Lexmark's ongoing international brand advertising efforts with Grey Advertising.

Recognized as an industry leader in network laser printers, Lexmark introduced its first color inkjet printer geared primarily to the home and small office/home office (SOHO) markets in 1994. The company has experienced strong sales growth worldwide, particularly in retail channels. Lexmark offers five award-winning inkjet printers through 12,000 retail outlets in the U.S.. Lexmark's products continue to be recognized in the industry for their superior performance and value. Lexmark, which spun off from IBM in 1991 and went public in November 1995, has helped redefine the \$45 billion printing industry by setting the direction for technology, innovation and pricing that the industry is following. It is the world's only significant integrated company specializing in printing solutions. Lexmark International, Inc., is a global developer, manufacturer and supplier of printing solutions and products, including laser, inkjet and dot-matrix printers and associated consumable supplies for the office and home markets. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Lexmark International Group, Inc. (NYSE: LXK). Lexmark, which had sales of \$2.2 billion in 1995, has executive offices in Greenwich, Conn., and manufacturing centers in Lexington, KY.; Boulder, Colo.; Rosyth, Scotland; Orleans, France and Sydney, Australia. An additional facility will open in Juarez, Mexico, later this year. Information about Lexmark can be found on the company's home page at www.lexmark.com on the Internet.

Hayes at 33.6 STR InfoFile

HAYES FINISHES 33.6 K MIGRATION
OF POPULAR
ACCURA TOTAL SOLUTIONS MODEM BUNDLES

Award-Winning Total Internet, Total Gaming and Office
Communications Hardware/Software Bundles Available at Local
Retail Stores

Atlanta, GA, 8 October 1996 -- Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. has concluded its comprehensive move to deliver 33.6 K throughput speeds in all of its popular award-winning consumer modem products - Hayes Office Communications Manager, Hayes Total Internet Solution, and Hayes Total Gaming Solution. In September Hayes announced plans to deliver 33.6 K throughput speeds in all of its modem products. Hayes will demonstrate 33.6 K and other high-speed technology at Fall COMDEX in the North Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center -- Booth L- 4530.

"Whether they're downloading information on the Internet or connecting to their corporate LAN, communications users want the fastest speeds possible to save them time and money," said Joseph Formichelli, CEO, Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. "Hayes is moving to a much faster drumbeat than before and that's evidenced by how quickly our people have mobilized to deliver faster communications products without compromising Hayes reputation for quality."

Hayes Office Communications Manager quickly and easily lets users connect to the corporate office and automate all of the major communications functions such as incoming and outgoing fax, voice mail with up to 1,000 mailboxes, and e-mail. Full voice mail and fax-back systems can be set up in minutes. Retailing at US\$189, this modem/software bundle comes with a full retail version of Hayes Smartcom Message Center.

Users can get more out of their voice/data/fax modems using Hayes Smartcom Message Center features such as support for voice record and playback, messaging, fax-on-demand, fax broadcast, and paging functions. Communications can be completely customized using Smartcom Message Center. The program has a wide range of applications and automated features for home, mobile and corporate branch office users such as call management, voice mail, visual scripting, caller I.D., and paging. Smartcom Message Center is also great for sending and retrieving e-mail or data files, broadcasting faxes to multiple locations, and establishing and managing an office voice mail system.

Hayes Total Gaming Solution provides users with interactive, head-to-head gaming for the low estimated street price of \$209. This Total Gaming Solution bundle increases the speed and the fun of gaming by enabling gamers to play interactive computer games and simultaneously talk to a human opponent instead of playing the game alone on a computer. Hayes Total Gaming Solution includes a Hayes ACCURA 288 V.34 DSVD Fax Modem with Voice and the full retail version of NASCAR Racing CD-ROM from Papyrus, one of the top-rated PC games in 1995.

NASCAR Racing, based on the 1994 racing season, is a revolutionary new racing simulation production. It uses a model that is based on the physics of a real stock car and is designed to accurately reproduce the complete NASCAR Racing experience by providing the most realistic visual effects and car handling available for the personal computer.

Hayes Total Internet Solution provides complete Internet access including software to place free long distance phone calls over the Internet. Hayes Total Internet Solution includes a Hayes ACCURA 288 Fax Modem bundled with full retail versions of Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2 and WebTalk at a value suggested street price of US\$179. The modem/software bundle provides users

with a complete, one-stop solution for getting on-line, with InternetSuite 2 Connect and Play feature to create an account with a variety of major Internet service providers in minutes.

Hayes Office Communications Manager and Hayes Total Gaming Solution also come with full versions of Quarterdeck's InternetSuite 2 and WebTalk. All three products come complete with CYBERSITTER and Hayes Bonus Bundle which includes on-line software and free temporary access from major on-line service providers.

InternetSuite 2 is a complete suite of utilities for navigating the Internet through a simple point-and-click interface. It comes with Quarterdeck Mosaic for browsing the Web, Quarterdeck Message Center, a news and mail reader, QFTP for file transfers, QTERM for remote log-in, and Global Chat, an Internet Relay chat client multi-user text chat. It also delivers advanced multi-media access to the Internet with built-in Adobe Acrobat, Real Audio and QuickTime Movie utilities. WebTalk is a full duplex, real-time voice chat utility, allowing two Internet users to talk to each other over the Internet and save on long distance telephone charges.

These modem/software bundles also come with CYBERSITTER, a Microsoft Windows program that will give the user the capability to block access to common types of graphics files, as well as specific files and programs. CYBERSITTER is great for parents who have children who have access to and regularly use the home computer.

Shop, travel and bank in a whole new way with VoiceView, an exciting application from Radish Communications Systems that's included in Hayes Office Communications Manager and Hayes Total Gaming Solution. VoiceView lets users connect directly to companies including American Airlines, Blockbuster Music, Delta Air Lines, Virtual Wall Street, Wells Fargo Bank and 1-800- Flowers. Users can pick up the phone and talk directly to a customer service representative while they send and receive information and graphic images over a single, secure phone line -- or, send files and play games with other VoiceView users.

Based in Norcross, Georgia, Hayes markets its ACCURA, OPTIMA, and Practical Peripherals brands of modems, CENTURY remote connectivity system products, and Smartcom communications software worldwide. Hayes introduced the PC modem in 1981. Today, with distributors in more than 45 countries, it is one of the largest manufacturers of modems in the world.

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For Immediate Release

COREL LICENSES PARADOX DATABASE FROM BORLAND

Corel Assumes Paradox Business To Advance Leadership
Position in Desktop Suites; Borland to Continue Development of Paradox's

Borland Database Engine and Participate in Paradox Revenue Streams

Ottawa, Canada - October 21, 1996 - After strong sales of Corel Office Professional and gaining a larger share than Microsoft in the US retail channel, Corel will boost marketing and support for the suite's Borland Paradox database product line through a new license agreement between the two companies. Effective today, Corel is licensing the Paradox source code from Borland and will assume responsibility for development, marketing, sales and support for the Paradox family of products worldwide. Under the terms of the license agreement, Borland will continue development of the Borland Database Engine, a key technology found in Paradox and other Borland products, and will continue to sell stand-alone versions of Paradox through October 21, 1997, as a customer service to Borland corporate customers.

Paradox is the award-winning Windows database from Borland that has been included in Corel Office Professional through a previous alliance between the companies. As part of Corel's future plans for Paradox, a forthcoming release of Paradox will include web development capabilities and increased support for popular application development tools, such as Borland's Delphi.

"Since acquiring the PerfectOffice Suite from Novell in March of 1996, Corel has made huge gains in market share," said Dr. Michael Cowpland, president and chief executive officer of Corel Corporation. "This license agreement will help Corel further its leadership position in the suite business, improve integration and extend customers' investment in Paradox through Corel's increased support for the product."

"With the overwhelming success of Corel Office Professional, it's clear that suites hold the future for end-user databases," said Michael Greenbaum, vice president of worldwide marketing for Borland. "Borland will be working closely with Corel over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition for customers and channel partners worldwide. Corel's leadership in the suite business and its new focus on Paradox will enable a long, successful future for Paradox."

"This licensing agreement will enable Corel's marketing and development teams to move forward with this award-winning database program and further integrate it into their office suite," said Joan-Carol Brigham, industry analyst with International Data Corporation. "It's definitely a win-win situation for both companies."

Effective immediately, customer service, future product development for Paradox, and sales and marketing will be supported by Corel. Borland will provide technical support for Paradox through November 21. After that date, customers calling Borland will be directed to Corel. Borland Japan will continue its current marketing, sales and support for another year during the transition period, while Corel will also bundle Paradox in their Japanese suite starting October 21. Following the 12 month transition period, Borland Japan will transition all Paradox related business including such functions as product development, sales, marketing, and distribution to Corel. Borland employees supporting Paradox will remain with Borland and will be re-deployed to its client/server and Internet/intranet product areas.

"Borland and Corel have worked closely together for the past several months, added Cowpland. "We look forward to working with Borland, our Paradox customers and channel partners to ensure the product's ongoing success."

About Corel Office Professional

This 32-bit office suite includes Corel WordPerfect, Corel Quattro Pro and Corel Presentations for Windows 95, plus a host of additional features which offer ease-of-use, OLE functionality, open network integration and Internet connectivity. Corel's new Barista technology, included in all three core applications, makes this software package the only one that enables users to publish documents directly to the Java Language. Corel Office Professional 7 carries a suggested list price of \$695 U.S. for the CD-ROM version with upgrades available for a suggested list price of \$249 U.S.

Questions & Answers

1. What are the terms of the Paradox license agreement between Borland and Corel?

Corel will license Paradox from Borland beginning October 21, 1996. This is a perpetual license with exclusive distribution rights for the standalone version of Paradox. The license includes all versions of Paradox, 16-bit and 32-bit, DOS and all source code. Under the terms of the license agreement, Borland will be paid a percentage for each sale of Paradox by Corel, both from the standalone packages and from the suite. Corel will assume responsibility for development, sales, marketing and support for Paradox worldwide. Borland will continue to sell stand-alone versions of Paradox another 12 months after October 21, 1996 as a customer service to Borland's corporate customers.

2. When is the license effective?

This perpetual license agreement is effective October 21, 1996.

3. What does this deal mean for Paradox customers?

This license agreement with Corel is great news for Paradox customers as Corel is fully committed to supporting the product and providing a future for your investment in Paradox. With their dramatic success in establishing market share with the Corel Office Professional, Corel has demonstrated its ability to extend and build market leadership for existing products, such as WordPerfect and Quattro Pro. Corel will continue development of Paradox and provide future versions.

4. Will Borland remain involved with Paradox?

Borland will continue to work with Corel to provide the technology for Paradox's Borland Database Engine, file formats for databases, and tight integration between Paradox and Delphi. Borland will continue to sell stand-alone versions of Paradox for another 12 months after October 21, 1996 as a customer service to our corporate customers.

5. How much money will Borland get from Corel for licensing Paradox?

We cannot comment on the specifics of the agreement. Revenue from Corel will be comprised of license fees and royalties.

6. Will Borland employees go to Corel?

All Borland Paradox employees will remain at Borland.

7. Which Paradox versions are to be licensed by Corel?

All current Paradox versions will be licensed to Corel.

8. Paradox contains components that are shared by other Borland products like BDE. Did Corel license updates to this type of component?

Yes. Corel will receive updates to the Borland Database Engine from Borland.

9. Will Corel provide support for previous versions of Paradox?

Corel will support all versions of Paradox.

10. Will Corel or Borland develop upgrades for Paradox?

Borland is providing Corel with the code for what will later be a major upgrade to Paradox. This future version of Paradox will provide web capabilities and support for Borland's popular Delphi development tool. All new versions will be included in Corel Office Professional.

11. When will Corel release the next version of Paradox?

The companies have been working together for some time to further integrate Paradox into the Perfect Office Suite and to extend Paradox's functionality for the Internet. Corel will provide information on upcoming Paradox versions at a later date.

12. What's the future for Paradox developer customers?

Corel plans to provide the same level of functionality for Paradox developers as provided by Borland, and will allow for increased integration between Paradox and Delphi. For Paradox developers wanting to learn about Borland's other products, Borland provides training materials and programs for developers who wish to use other Borland development tools.

13. How will existing customers receive technical support?

To ensure customer convenience and service continuity, the transition of Paradox technical support will be handled in two phases. In Phase I, October 22 through November 21, Borland will continue to provide full support for Paradox. During this phase, Corel will put the systems and processes in place for Phase II. In Phase II, beginning November 22, Corel will assume full support responsibility for technical support.

14. What about existing contract obligations with Paradox customers?

Borland will continue to work with existing maintenance customers under the terms of existing agreements. Borland and Corel will also work together to identify new customers wishing to purchase maintenance agreements and will work to ensure that these customers are properly serviced in the months to come.

15. My Borland Assist contract covers more products than just Paradox. How will that be handled?

Customers with Borland Assist contracts that include support for Paradox and other Borland products will receive support from both Corel and Borland. Corel will handle Paradox support and Borland will continue to provide support for the other products.

16. Will Paradox still be supported through the on-line and automated services?

Yes. Borland will continue on-line and automated support until November 22. At that time, Corel will assume responsibilities for all technical support services. As a transition service, Borland will maintain existing Paradox technical content on the web site.

17. Who will provide order status for Paradox orders?

Borland will provide status on all orders placed directly with Borland through October 21, 1997. Corel will handle status on all orders placed directly with them on and after October 22, 1996.

18. Who will provide replacement disks, manuals etc.?

Corel will begin to take orders for Paradox products on October 22, 1996. Borland will take replacement disks and manual orders for customers who purchased products prior to October 22, 1997, in accordance with Borland's 90-day warranty.

19. If a customer is dissatisfied with Paradox, who will process returns? For how long?

Customers who purchased the product from Borland, will have the opportunity to return that product to Borland. Product purchased from Corel, can be returned to Corel. Borland and Corel will both uphold the 90-day return policy for customers. Customers who purchased through retail are recommended to return their product to the place of purchase.

20. How will Borland's international customers be handled?

All international markets except Japan will be handled the same as in the U.S. Borland Japan will continue its current marketing, sales and support for another year during the transition period. Following the 12 month transition period, Borland Japan will transition all Paradox related business including such functions as product development, sales, marketing, and distribution to Corel.

21. How will International customers place orders for Paradox?

Effective October 22, Corel will handle customer support calls and orders through its Corel's international customer centers. Paradox customers contacting Borland to place orders on or after October 21, 1997 will be directed to Corel.

22. Will Borland still support Paradox Connection members?

Paradox Connection members may transfer their memberships to other product Connection programs at Borland, such as Delphi Connections, Borland C++ Connections, etc. If Paradox Connections members are already participating in other Connections programs at Borland, they may use their Paradox membership to extend their participation in the other programs. Borland will also provide all Paradox Connections members with a free copy of the next version of Paradox. If Paradox Connections members do not want to transfer their membership to another Borland Connection program, they may receive a full refund on their membership fee.

Corel Corporation: Redefining the Suite Market

Incorporated in 1985, Corel Corporation is recognized internationally as an award-winning developer and marketer of productivity applications, graphics and multimedia software. Corel's product line includes CorelDRAWT, the Corelr WordPerfectr Suite, Corel Office Professional, CorelVIDEO and over 30 multimedia software titles. Corel's products run on most operating systems, including: Windows, Macintosh, UNIX, MS-DOS and OS/2 and are consistently rated among the strongest in the industry. The company ships its products in over 17 languages through a network of more than 160 distributors in 70 countries worldwide. Corel is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (symbol: COS) and the NASDAQ--National Market System (symbol: COSFF). For more information visit Corel's home page on the Internet at <http://www.corel.com>.

Borland: Making Development Easier

Borland International Inc. (NASDAQ:BORL) is a leading provider of products and services targeted to software developers. Borland is distinguished for its high-quality software development tools, which include Borland C++, Delphi, Delphi Client/Server, IntraBuilder, InterBase, Paradox and Visual dBASE. Borland's award-winning products are supported through comprehensive programs for small- and large-sized software developers, corporate developers, value added resellers and systems integrators. Founded in 1983, Borland is headquartered in Scotts Valley, California.

Kids Computing Corner
Frank Sereno, Editor

The Kids' Computing Corner
Computer news and software reviews
from a parent's point of view

BodyWorks 5.0 for Windows by SoftKey
reviewed by Donna Lines

BodyWorks is an easy to use and informative program containing beautiful illustrations of the human body. (There are no illustrations that would be offensive or inappropriate for users of any age.)

BodyWorks installs Apple's QuickTime 2.03 for Windows for viewing the 50 live action videos and NetCom's NetCruiser software for accessing BodyWorks' on-line information through the Internet. (NetCom is an Internet service provider and bills monthly for this service. If you prefer not to load NetCruiser you can exit the setup program when it starts to install NetCruiser.)

There is a wealth of information in BodyWorks. The program opens to the 3D model module. The 25 3D models can be rotated 360 degrees and enlarged for optimum viewing. On the right hand side of the screen there is an outline of the body highlighted by colored circles from which you can select a specific area to be viewed in greater detail. In the lower left hand corner of the screen you can select the Database for more detailed information on related body structures.

The Database provides information on the body and even pronounces the body structure/organ when you click on the name. In the illustration window, a movie camera icon links you to a short video on the topic. The 3D icon takes you back to the 3D model and the caduceus icon links you to Dr. BodyWorks -- a multimedia presentation. Open a topic marked with a square marker and the topic with illustration will be displayed. Select (or double-click) the same topic again and BodyWorks provides an illustration with even more detail. You can continue to delve deeper and deeper into these topics and illustrations to microscopic degrees.

Dr. BodyWorks is a multimedia presentation on the 10 major body systems/structures. You definitely don't want to miss these elegant and informative lectures. Dr. BodyWorks can be accessed through the Database (by selecting the caduceus medical symbol in the illustration window) or by selecting Dr. BodyWorks from the Tools menu.

BodyWorks also provides two interactive ways to build your knowledge about the human body: BodyWorks Lessons provide you with a self-study of various body structures/systems. The information is very detailed and interesting. But don't worry, there's no test! Body Basics is styled after a TV game show with up to two players who can buzz in and answer questions. You can access both options through the Tools menu.

BodyWorks 5.0 would make a wonderful addition to any family's medical reference library.

BodyWorks 5.0 by SoftKey

for Windows 95 (works with Win 3.1)

Approximate Retail Price: \$39.95

System Requirements:

386/25 or higher/Windows 3.1 or Windows 95

4MB RAM (8MB recommended)/8MB free disk space

SVGA w/ 256 colors/2X Speed CD-ROM drive (4X recommended)

Mouse/Sound card

Di\$connect
3.5" floppy
Windows 3.1, 95
\$29.95

Dagar Software Corporation
Bethany, CT 06524
1-800-687-1966
<http://www.dagar.com>

reviewed by Frank Sereno

Have you ever made the mistake of forgetting to disconnect from a commercial online service? With so many of us using internal modems, it would be very easy to think we ended our connection but we were really still online. It could be a very costly error, especially if your connection is not a local phone call. This is a very easy mistake for an adult to make, but imagine how easily a child could forget to terminate an online connection.

Di\$connect is an excellent program to prevent outrageous charges from forgotten connections.

Di\$connect is a very simple program to the eye. It installs from a single 3.5-inch diskette into its own folder on your hard drive. When you run the program for the first time, you must place the distribution disk in the drive with write enabled to set up Di\$connect. The program does not automate the setting up for you by locating any terminal programs, browsers or other telecommunications programs. You have to type in the name of the program exactly as it will appear in the title bar of the program window when that application is running. Then you can edit the parameters for Di\$connect for each program so that the idle times before warnings and shut down are different for each.

When you run one of the installed programs, Di\$connect will automatically recognize it and monitor it. If you checked the sound card option in the setup menu, you will hear a pleasant female voice warning you when your connection has exceeded your preferred idle time. You can even use your own wave files if you replace Di\$connect's by using the same filenames.

The program's packaging states that it will work with modems up to 28.8k, but I found it to work flawlessly with my 33.6k modem also. Since it monitors your serial ports rather than the modem, I believe it will work with the new 56k modems too. It will not work with ISDN devices since these do not use serial ports.

This program should pay for itself very quickly. It will be very convenient for those of us who download large files and then need to leave our computers. Just set the termination timer to a short period and then you don't have to worry about monitoring the file transfer. To ensure that the program is always on the job for you, I would suggest installing it in the StartUp folder so it loads when your computer boots up. Otherwise, you have

to remember to run Di\$connect before or during your telecommunications session.

I would like to see this program become more polished. For example, the user manual is very brief. It is adequate for experienced users but it might be difficult for new users to understand. Another strike against the program for use by inexperienced computer users is that technical support costs \$2.00 per minute with no period of free tech support. Most companies provide at least a few weeks free support before they start charging for assistance. I'd like to see the setup program ask during installation if it should be placed in the StartUp folder. I also think it should have a utility to search for basic telecom programs such as Netscape, Internet Explorer, Prodigy, NetCruiser, etc.

Despite its Spartan nature, Di\$connect is a very useful and effective program. If you spend a great deal of time online, you should consider purchasing Di\$connect. If your younger children are using the Web, then this program deserves serious consideration. Visit Dagar's Web site for a demonstration version of the program to check it out for yourself. I think this is a program that can easily pay for itself many times over.

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File format Requirements for Articles

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 7.0.. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at eleven points.

- No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmickery"
- No underlining!
- Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, column format in Word 6-7 Do NOT use the space bar.
- No ASCII "ART"!!
- There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.)should be sent along with the article separately
- Please use a single font only in an article. TTF CG Times 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note. the ASCII version of STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line" As the major Online Services move away from ASCII.. So shall STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 15 to 1 over the ASCII edition. Besides, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward. However, if the ASCII readership remains as high, rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, since STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate networks as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
STRReport International Online Magazine

Gaming & Entertainment Section
with Atari User Support

Editor Dana P. Jacobson

From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

For those of you who can make it, AtariFest '96 is happening this weekend at Toad Computers. While a far cry from its roots at WAACE, the plans for the gathering portend a fun time. I wish that I lived a little closer so it would be worthwhile driving down; 500' plus miles is just a "tad" too far for me for a single day event. The area, Washington and Baltimore, has a lot to see, but I've been there enough times that the "attraction" to stay an extra day or so just doesn't appeal to me enough to venture down. At least with WAACE, when you got tired of the show, you could "schmooze" with your fellow Atarians. Still, for those within driving range, it should be an interesting time. Have fun!

Speaking of "nostalgic" happenings, I've recently heard from a familiar name within the online community and we should be adding his well known writings to our pages here. I'll keep the name a "secret" for the moment, but look forward to seeing a "boost" to these sparse Atari computing pages soon. I'm looking forward to it myself!

As Joe Mirando mentioned in his column last week, we'll have the "Emulator Wars" article shortly. I was hoping to have it re-edited for this week, but time just didn't allow it to happen this week. Joe will likely have some other comments about this article in his column this week, also.

Until next time...

Atarifest '96! STR ShowNews

ATARIFEST '96 APPROACHES FAST
BE THERE ON OCTOBER 26th!

Preparations for Atarifest '96 are in full swing, and it looks like it will be another exciting event! Things to look forward to include:

- '• Great deals on ST/Falcon/TT Software & Hardware
- '• Fantastic prices on Jaguar Hardware & Games
- '• Amazing deals on Lynx Hardware & Games
- '• CLEARANCE, OVERSTOCK and other UNBELIEVABLY PRICED ITEMS!
- '• FREE GIVEAWAYS & REFRESHMENTS!

- Complete ROOM full of Atari 8-Bit Items!
- Great selection of Portfolio Accessories!
- LOTS, LOTS MORE!

Also, several Atari developers & friends will be in attendance including:

- Tom Harker, ICD (Link, BattleSphere, and a NEW PC Video product!)
- Darek Mihowka (Demonstrating Gemulator '96)
- It's All Relative (Greg Kopchak -- the greatest Atari CD's!)
- Matt Norcross (Floating Fish Studios, creators of BIRD OF PREY CD)
- Tim Hebel (A.K.A. Spud Boy)
- Others to be announced!!

We'll have demos of fun/current Atari programs & products, like always, plus any other cool things we can come up with. We're working hard to be sure this is the definitive Atari event!! Also, we'll be featuring the following hot software products:

- Magic 5
- HD Driver 6
- Gemulator 96

And of course, we have a fantastic deal on a Pentium 166MHz PC with Gemulator 96 for just \$1299! AND ADMISSION TO ATARIFEST '96 IS COMPLETELY FREE! No matter where you are, you're not too far away to come (well, maybe Papua New Guinea is a little far, but you really should consider it!) It's a fact that Atari products are becoming harder and harder to find; this may be your last chance to pick up some of the most interesting stuff. Our collection of used/demo equipment is way cool. You'll have to see it to believe it.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the show. If you have questions about the show, about where to stay, or what else to do in the area, please contact us at 'info@toad.net' or call (410) 544-6943. You can get directions to our store at <http://www.toad.net/direxns.html>.

Thanks again! We're looking forward to seeing you!

Dave Troy
Toad Computers, Inc.

Entertainment Section

4 New Jag Games!
PlayStation News!
N64 News!
Tetris Guru to Microsoft! And more...

From the Editor's Controller - Playin' it like it is!

The good news is that there are still four games coming out for the Jaguar. The bad news is that they all will not be available within the next couple of months. A couple are scheduled this year and the other two will appear in early 1997. If the dates are accurate, this won't be a bad thing unless the numbers of Jaguar owners decreases even more drastically. At least Jag owners will have something definitive to look ahead to playing. TeleGames is likely being cautious, among other things. Speaking of TeleGames and

their four upcoming games, I have talked with the folks there and we hope to be seeing review copies of these games very shortly. In the meantime, we have a short synopsis of each new game, courtesy of Dave Davis at Bits of Fun, in this week's issue.

The rest of the issue is jam-packed with gaming news, of all sorts. I keep hearing these news items, of new games and peripherals, and can only sigh of what might have been had Atari been able to market the Jaguar effectively. It is good to see how "the other half" lives, however. We also hope to be able to provide you a hands-on view of much of the news that we're only hearing about at the present time. Time will tell...
Until next time...

Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!

'Nintendo 64' U.S. Sales at 460,000

REDMOND, Wash., Oct. 24 (UPI) -- Nintendo of America reported Thursday it has sold 460,000 of its Nintendo 64 advanced video-game systems since they went on sale Sept. 29 with a \$200 price tag.
Nintendo, battling Sony's PlayStation and Sega's Saturn for supremacy in the lucrative market of high-end players, said U.S. shipments will reach more than 1.2 million units by Christmas. That is up sharply from the initial 500,000 originally slated for the U.S. market but will not be enough to meet demand, according to Nintendo.

"It's clear from our retailers that they think they could sell between 1.5 and 2 million units this calendar year," said Peter Main, Nintendo of America executive vice president, sales and marketing. "This new figure will go a long way to meet demand, but shortages may continue in some areas of the country." Nintendo said first weeks of sales of the machine, marketed as N64, are more than four times the initial sales rates reported for last year's launch of the Playstation and approximately 10 times that of the Saturn. Nintendo's system is powered by a 64-bit chip while Sony's and Sega's have 32-bit processors.

"The sales and demand for the N64 has been a big boost to the health of the video game industry," said Sean McGowan, senior industry analyst with Gerard Klauer Mattison. "The N64 seems to be on the 'must have' gift-giving shopping lists this year." The third game for the new machine, Wave Race 64, will be available Nov. 4, joining Super Mario 64 and PilotWings 64. Five other games will be available by Christmas. Nintendo began selling the player in Japan in July.

BMG Interactive Signs Licensing Agreements With MLS Superstars

SAN FRANCISCO (Oct. 18) BUSINESS WIRE -Oct. 18, 1996--BMG Interactive, a global publisher of entertainment software, today announced that it has signed exclusive licensing agreements with Major League Soccer (MLS) superstars Alexi Lalas of the New England Revolution and Eric Wynalda of the San Jose Clash.

Under the terms of the agreement, Lalas and Wynalda will assist in the development and marketing of BMG Interactive's break-through soccer title that will feature official MLS teams, logos and players. Set for worldwide release in 1997 for PlayStation, Saturn and PC-CD, the game will provide incredibly realistic action and incorporate expert offensive and defensive

strategies straight from two of the world's greatest players. "We are a global publisher and soccer is the world's most popular sport," noted Jay Moses, president of BMG Interactive. "The signing of Lalas and Wynalda is a complement to our overall strategy and we are pleased to join forces with such talented athletes."

"Alexi and Eric are legitimate soccer superstars and we look forward to incorporating their skills and strategies into the game," added Don Traeger, vice president of worldwide product development and A&R. "Their insight and expertise in offensive and defensive play will be integrated directly into our MLS title, giving it the utmost in authenticity." The title is being created by BMG Interactive's premiere development partner Z-AXIS. The Z-AXIS team is comprised of noted sports game experts whose credits include major contributions to several titles in the acclaimed John Madden Football series, among others. Working closely with BMG Interactive, Z-AXIS will leverage its proprietary technology to create highly-realistic game play that is expected to set a new standard in the category.

"We're thrilled to working side-by-side with two of the world's best soccer players," remarked David Luntz, president of Z-AXIS. "Our combined abilities and true passion for the sport will result in the kind of realistic soccer title that gamers have been waiting to play." Alexi Lalas is an internationally-renowned player and one of the biggest names in professional soccer today. Eric Wynalda is among the most talented offensive players in U.S. soccer history, respected the world over for his ability to score spectacular goals, including the first goal ever scored in a MLS game. Both players are starters on the U.S. National Team and starred in World Cup 1994. Each left lucrative playing careers in Europe to make soccer a success in the U.S. as top players with MLS.

"I'm pleased to be a part of a project that captures the true excitement of professional soccer," stated Lalas. "My defensive moves will crush Eric every time and I look forward to challenging him on both the real and virtual soccer fields next year." "BMG Interactive and Z-AXIS share my vision of soccer and together we will create a title that pushes the boundaries of sports games," added Wynalda. "I'm excited to join forces with this talented group and I can't wait to kick Alexi's butt in MLS next season."

Working with some of the most sought-after, independent game developers around the world, BMG Interactive boasts an impressive roster of third-party talent, including BLAM!, Boss Game Studios, Delphine Software International, DMA Design, Interactive Studios, New Level Software, NMS Software, Pixel Multimedia, Z-AXIS, and Zombie. BMG Interactive is the global entertainment software publishing arm of BMG Entertainment, the \$5.3 billion division of Bertelsmann AG, a \$13.7 billion operation and third largest media company in the world. Established in 1994, BMG Interactive markets and distributes next generation titles for PlayStation, Saturn, Nintendo 64, and PC CD-ROM. The company is based in San Francisco and has offices in New York and London.

Alps Interactive Introduces a PS Gamepad for the PSX

SAN JOSE, CALIF. (Oct. 21) BUSINESS WIRE -Oct. 21, 1996--Alps Interactive, a new product line of Alps Electric (USA) Inc. that focuses on the development of interactive technology and gaming input devices, today introduced the Alps Interactive Gamepad for the PlayStation game console. Alps Interactive worked with top game designers, producers and testers within the gaming industry to design a new shape and feel for maximum comfort and ease of use.

The Alps Interactive Gamepad features the familiar 14-button layout, while offering a unique curved shape that's naturally comfortable, fitting gamers' hands better than any other controller on the market. An ultra-smooth direction pad features non-abrasive buttons and enhanced response. It's the first PS gamepad with a rubber grip, which offers a secure hold -- giving players the control required to compete in today's gaming environments.

The larger, curved design and enhanced feel offer players greater freedom and movement of fingers, and is well suited for hands of all sizes. It includes an extra-long eight-foot extension cord so players can sit a comfortable distance from the TV screen. The PS gamepad comes in a blue metallic flake color. "We designed the Alps Interactive Gamepad so players can concentrate on the game instead of the gamepad," said Ken Kajikawa, product manager for Alps Interactive. "Gamers can now enjoy longer, harder playing while playing with the best, instead of traditionally awkward and uncomfortable gamepads." Pricing And Availability

The Alps Interactive Gamepad will be available this month through national retailers and distributors. The suggested list price is \$44.95 and the estimated street price is \$39.95. For more information contact Alps at 800/825-2577. The Company Alps Interactive, a new product line of Alps Electric (USA) Inc., manufactures and markets innovative gaming solutions for the interactive multimedia industry. For more information, contact Alps Interactive at 800/825-2577, or see the home page at www.interactive.alps.com. Alps Electric (USA) Inc., located in San Jose, manufactures and markets peripherals and other electronic components for the computer market through reseller, government, OEM and direct channels. Alps Electric (USA) Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alps Electric Co. Ltd., a \$4 billion Fortune International 500 company, which is headquartered in Tokyo.

CONTACT: Sony Computer Entertainment America
P. Kevin Horn, 415/655-5513 or
Fleishman-Hillard, Inc. Luis Gonzalez, 213/489-8233

NHL Face Off '97 Set to Put a Bodycheck ...

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (Oct. 22) BUSINESS WIRE -Oct. 22, 1996--Sony Computer Entertainment America today shipped NHL(r) Face Off '97(tm), available exclusively on the PlayStation(tm) game console. The original NHL Face Off(tm) was 1995's top selling hockey title for the PlayStation game console. NHL Face Off '97 introduces a revolutionary new passing system. Icon Passing(tm) allows the gameplayer to bring up symbols -- a circle, square or triangle, which corresponds to the controller buttons -- under the hockey players. By selecting one of these buttons the puck is passed to that hockey player. Using a combination of these buttons, videogame players can literally pass the puck between hockey players with lightening speed.

And if the gameplayer presses the shoot buttons immediately after passing the puck, the last hockey player to receive the puck will shoot on goal. "When we brought Icon Passing to NFL GameDay, everyone said it had forever changed the face of video game football," said Peter Dille, senior director, product marketing, Sony Computer Entertainment America. "So it was a natural to bring it to our hockey game, and without question it brings more playability and excitement than ever. But we didn't stop there. Where NHL Face Off '97 really beats the competition is from the standpoint of its strategy elements; there is no equal."

Avid hockey fans will be pleased to find new team strategies, allowing them

to take control and change both the offensive and defensive style of play for their team. Players will be able to stifle opponents with a trapping or checking defense, overwhelm them with an all out attack on the net, or drop back and fiercely defend the goal. Players even have the opportunity to focus their offense around either of their wings or the center, depending on the individual strength of the hockey player chosen.

Realism is key to any sports video game and NHL Face Off '97 has every imaginable element: real stats and player attributes on all 650 NHL players; the home and away uniforms for all 26 teams, including the relocated Phoenix Coyotes; and each team's respective arenas recreated in amazing 3D detail. Beyond inclusion of all of these hockey mainstays, the game developers at Sony Interactive Studios America have added hockey elements such as drop passes, fake shots, give and go's, backward skating, flips, celebrations and injuries.

Gamers will also have the opportunity to put themselves in the action by creating their own player and assigning their own attributes, in 11 different categories, to that player. They can also release players, sign free agents or trade players to create their own ultimate dream team. "NHL Face Off '97 is one of those few games that can entertain both the novice sports gamer and the die-hard hockey buff who expects nothing short of perfection," said Dille. "The improved graphics, fluid handling and explosive action will insure that NHL Face Off '97 is the No. 1 hockey game two years in a row."

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or: Mark Smotroff, 415/904-7070 e-mail: msmotroffaccesspr.com

Viacom New Media's SLAMSCAPE, A Twisted New 'Slam-and-Jam'

NEW YORK (Oct. 23) ENTERTAINMENT WIRE -Oct. 23, 1996- Players fight, shoot, drive and slam to an interactive soundtrack by "God Lives Underwater," the hot alternative band featured on MTV. Viacom New Media's SLAMSCAPE, a high-speed, high-stakes action game for Sony PlayStation and Windows 95 CD-ROM, is now available in stores. SLAMSCAPE utilizes a unique new play mechanic that incorporates elements of driving, shooting and slamming with an innovative interactive soundtrack by the hot alternative band featured on MTV, God Lives Underwater. The cybernetic slam-and-jam is an MTV and Viacom New Media production.

Viacom New Media and MTV are units of Viacom Inc. In the game, players, along with a group of captives, are victims of a freakish experiment, hooked up to the SlamScape Remulator. Previous attempts at bug-testing the thought-powered, virtual simulator have only succeeded in imprisoning the IDs of the 16 "volunteers" in a virtual nightmare, leaving their psyches melded together. Now with the help of a little hard-wiring, hackers are sending the player into SLAMSCAPE's 20 nightmarish regions to rescue their human guinea pigs. Only by using true gamer's expertise to defeat a plague of subconscious childhood terrors such as vicious Shreddy Bears and nightmare-clowns on stilts can players hope to free themselves.

By mastering SLAMSCAPE's unique new play mechanic and controlling the game's lightning-fast Slamjet, a hyper-responsive hovercraft, players can successfully maneuver through five bizarre mindscapes including

Carnivalhalla, Uraniumania, Repsyphler and Endless Bummer, conquer the games diabolically difficult bosses and free each and every Id. But players must be vigilant with both eyes and ears. With 360 degrees of incredibly high-res danger bearing down, players must listen for audio clues.

Each enemy has a signature track that gets louder as they near... "is that the sound of a NodeSnagger ripping up the turf behind you..." Every location has its own theme, so players can quickly re-orient themselves in this speed junkies's paradise. The player's every action will kick up the sound from a multiplicity of edgy music tracks and musical effects all laid down by the hip, alternative band "God Lives Underwater." As power winds down so does the sound...so pump it up!

Slam it up! Make some noise! "God Lives Underwater" has emerged as one of the most innovative and admired bands in the last year, thanks to their deft blending of rock and techno influences. Formed by David Reilly and Jeff Turzo in 1993, the band released a self-titled debut "God Lives Underwater" in February of 1995, and is currently touring in support of their American Recordings debut album, "Empty". SLAMSCAPE was developed by Viacom New Media/Chicago, the company's in-house development unit, based in Buffalo Grove, IL.

Also now on store shelves from the development unit are the first titles in the MTV's "Cheap Clicks" line of impulse-priced, mass market, high-quality products: MTV'S BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD IN LITTLE THINGIES, WIENER TAKES ALL and CALLING ALL DORKS.

Other upcoming titles include a line of originals for consumers of all ages and JOE'S APARTMENT, based on the MTV short and Geffen Pictures release distributed by Warner Bros. Viacom New Media's current and upcoming titles are a diverse group published across a number of platforms. In addition to SLAMSCAPE and the "Cheap Clicks" titles, they include the episodic adventure game STAR TREK: VOYAGER (PC CD-ROM); the action/adventure games MTV'S AEON FLUX (PSX and PC CD-ROM) and THE DIVIDE:

ENEMIES WITHIN (PSX and PC CD-ROM); the pure action game DEATHDROME (PC CD-ROM); the children's creativity title D-LAB DELUXE (PC CD-ROM); and the online action/RPG game, ARCHMAGE: WAR OF THE WIZARDS. The adventure game STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE -- HARBINGER (PC and Mac CD-ROM) was released earlier this year. Viacom New Media, DeathDrome, The Divide: Enemies Within, ArchMage, SlamScape, MTV: Music Television, Aeon Flux, Beavis and Butt-Head, Cheap Clicks, D-Lab Deluxe, Nickelodeon and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc.

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE -- HARBINGER, STAR TREK: VOYAGER and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Paramount Pictures. Joe's Apartment is a trademark of Geffen Pictures. Viacom New Media's World Wide Web address is: <http://www.viacomnewmedia.com> The site was developed by Viacom Interactive Services. Viacom New Media, a unit of Viacom Interactive Media, is a publisher of interactive entertainment software for Viacom.

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Capcom's Street Fighter Alpha 2 TV Commercial ...

SUNNYVALE, CALIF. (Oct. 24) BUSINESS WIRE -Oct. 24, 1996--Capcom's Street Fighter Alpha 2 TV commercial may raise more than a few eyebrows when it begins airing November 11. Entitled "Going Blind", the commercial features

an anxious teenager deeply engrossed in playing Street Fighter Alpha 2, who hardly notices his mother's concerned voice outside his closed bedroom door. It's only after Mom hears the "commotion" coming from her son that she utters, "Oh my gosh Jeffery, you're going to go blind." "The commercial is designed to grab the viewers attention, with a little light-hearted fun and really stick in the minds of the audience," said Todd Thorson, Capcom's product marketing manager.

"Creating impact is one of the goals of any advertisement and is necessary in order to break through the television clutter. The ad tested extremely well at a recent focus group where it was shown to a group of young men between the ages of 17 and 24, who thought it was hilarious. The placement for this commercial is targeted to a young male demographic. We aren't looking for resistance from the TV stations, but we are prepared for it -- this is the kind of attention getting spot that sparks conversation." The commercial will air in the top 81 markets for a two week flight. It will air during syndicated shows in a prime time or later broadcast buy and within daytime sports programming.

Street Fighter Alpha 2 is the latest in the world's premier line of fighting games. This newest title features a Custom Combo system and 18 on-screen selectable characters, the most in any single Street Fighter game. It will be available at retail stores nationwide on November 1, 1996 for the Sony PlayStation and Sega Saturn carrying a suggested retail price of \$65.95.

Capcom Entertainment, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Capcom Co., Ltd., is a leading force in the multi-billion dollar interactive entertainment industry. The company develops, markets, and distributes, home video games for the Sega Saturn, Sony PlayStation and Super Nintendo. Capcom Entertainment is based in Sunnyvale, California.

Tetris Creator Joins Microsoft

Alexey Pajitnov, creator of the popular Tetris computer game, has joined Microsoft's games group. Reporting from Microsoft's Redmond, Washington, headquarters, The Associated Press notes Pajitnov, who conceived Tetris while living in the former Soviet Union in the 1980s, now lives in Washington state. Pajitnov is a co-owner of The Tetris Co. and will continue that work, Microsoft said, while working for Microsoft to develop a new series of computer mind-teasers and puzzles.

Ed Fries, general manager of the Microsoft games group, told AP, "Alexey's is one of the most original minds in the business," said "We're delighted to have him contribute his unmatched knowledge and experience to help us create exciting new games."

The wire service adds Tetris, in which players try to neatly stack a perpetual cascade of cubes, has sold more than 40 million copies. Pajitnov also created the games Welltris, Hatris, Faces, Knight Move, Elfish, and Fire and Ice.

Electronic Arts Earnings Up 97 Percent

SAN MATEO, Calif., Oct. 23 (UPI) -- Electronic Arts reported earnings Wednesday of \$5.9 million, or 11 cents a share, for its second quarter ended Sept. 30, up 97 percent over the 1995 period and 4 cents ahead of Wall Street's average estimate. Sales for the video-game producer were up 37 percent to \$129.3 million from \$94 million in the 1995 quarter. Electronic Arts released the results after the stock market closed.

International revenues increased 39 percent and represented 33 percent of total revenues. Revenues in North America increased 37 percent, reflecting a strong launch of the company's new products for the Sony PlayStation and continued growth in the personal computer-CD market. European revenues increased 69 percent and gained 27 percent in Southeast Asia, but sales in Japan decreased 45 percent primarily due to delays in introducing new localized products in that market.

The company noted that for the first time, it is shipping major sports franchise products at the start of hockey and football seasons. "We believe that EA is well positioned for the holiday season with a strong line-up of products across all major platforms, including the PlayStation, Saturn, 16-bit systems and the PC, supported by television advertising throughout the fall," said Larry Probst, chairman and chief executive officer.

Jaguar Online STR InfoFile Online Users Growl & Purr!

As announced by Dave Davis, Bits of Fun

NEWS FLASH OCTOBER 18, 1996

FOUR NEW JAGUAR TITLES ANNOUNCED TODAY!

Breakout 2000	(Early December 1996)	\$59.95
Towers II	(Early December 1996)	\$59.95
Worms	(January 1997)	\$59.95
Zero Five	(February 1997)	\$59.95

THE 4 NEW JAGUAR TITLES

BREAKOUT 2000 - SMASH! POW! CRUNCH!

Is your hand/eye coordination up to demolishing field after field of bricks? Breakout 2000 brings back the nostalgia of early gaming days but adds 90's challenges, such as a three dimensional field and bricks that resist breaking, as well as many powerups and hazards. You can also test your skill against a buddy. Break through your own wall and start working on his. You'll gain bonus points, and he'll go nuts! Who ever said life was fair never played Breakout 2000. MSRP \$59.99 (Due Early December 1996)

TOWERS II - Finally, a genuine RPG for Jaguar.

Become one of four different characters as you are immersed within the strange happenings in the mystical land of Lamini. You must uncover the secrets as you explore Daggan's tower. Many before you have tried, but none have returned. First person perspective, full screen smooth scrolling, talk to others, refer to maps, collect 100's of items, encounter 100's of creatures, experience challenges in combat and spell casting. Hours and hours of entertainment with appropriate save features. MSRP 59.99 (Due early December 1996)

WORMS is the hit product that is available on most other next-gen systems. Designed for one to four players, this game combines the best elements from the very best games ever created. The game requires great thought, strategy, and elements of sheer outrageous fortune within an almost infinite range of playing possibilities. Teams take it in turn to bombard the enemy with whatever weapon they feel is likely to reap the most reward. Each battle has a time period and once this is over a period of extra time may be played where all remaining worms are reduced to 1 unit of energy and the slightest hit will render them out of the game. The last team remaining wins the game. MSRP \$59.95 Available January 1997.

ZERO 5 is a futuristic space shooter set in a 3-D, 360 degree playfield. The year is 2044 and the battle for Earth has begun. On the far reaches of the galaxy, a massive invasion force is assembling. Scanners at Defcon have alerted you to the alien threat. The Earth's best pilots are dispatched in their BamBam cruisers to engage the enemy. Multiple weapons, driving soundtrack, non-stop combat, multiple power-ups, and 15 extended missions contribute to a shooters game with real depth. MSRP \$59.95 Available February 1997.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

On CompuServe

Joe Mirando
73637,2262

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. Another week has come and gone and it's time once again to take a look at what has occupied the minds of Atari users all over the world for the past week. I'll tell you, it's getting tough to find enough information to keep me happy for a full week. It seems that more and more folks are leaving their tried and true STs behind and moving on to other platforms. It's to be expected I guess, but I'm still not happy about it.

Also, Alejandro Aguilar's "Emulator Wars" review isn't in this issue, so don't bother looking for it! <grin> Actually, it could have made it into this week's issue, but we wanted to make sure that everything hangs together well. I give you my promise that "Emulator Wars" will be in next week's issue.

Well, let's get on with the reason for this column in the first place... all the news, hints, tips, and info available every week right here on CompuServe.

From the Atari Computing Forums

Brian Gockley posts this about TOS 2.06:

"...Major highlights of 2.06:

At any time hitting the ALT + any ASCII code from the numeric keypad will generate that ASCII code in the keyboard buffer (for example ALT + 225 = beta) Support for 1.44MB Floppy by the OS. You still need the 'kit' of the Ajax chip, the drive, and a PAL. Media change for floppies is Empty floppies are detected faster. There is no long delay if you boot with no floppy at boot time (the best way to prevent viruses). One FAT floppies are supported. These are usually disks from PCs. Fuji logo, memory test, and an 80 sec. HD boot countdown at bootup."

One of our old friends from Atari, Mike Fulton, posts:

"I'm a "Senior Developer Support Engineer" at Sony Computer Entertainment America. Basically that means I'm the guy that gets most of the phone calls from PlayStation developers when they are trying to figure out

something. Basically, I'm doing the same thing I was at Atari, except the machine is the Sony PlayStation instead of the Jaguar or one of the Atari computer line. Or at least, I'm doing the same thing as my job description at Atari... the actual work at Atari had a lot of other stuff mixed in with it, but at Sony I get to pretty much concentrate on developer support stuff and leave the other stuff to other people. That results in a lot less stress.

There are a lot of familiar faces, too. My boss is Bill Rehbock, same as at Atari. He's the VP of our department, Research & Development. In our group alone, we have several former Atari people. There's Greg Labrec, who was the creative services director at Atari. Diana Anderson worked for Greg over at Atari, and she was here too until about two weeks ago. Don Thomas started about a month ago. And Pradip Fatehpuria, the Atari Works guy, just started a few days back. And in our 3rd Party department, there's another 6 or 8 recent Atari alumni (i.e. from the last 2 years or so).

It's a nice building, the pay and benefits are a lot better than at Atari, and of course Sony has the resources to make sure we can get the job done. Overall, I'm pretty happy with the situation."

Sysop Jim Ness tells Mike:

"Congratulations! It's a bit weird that you have so many ex-Atari people there, but I'm glad you all landed on your feet."

In the Atari Gaming forum, Mike White asks:

"Does anyone know of an emulator on the PC which allows Atari 400/800 programs to be run on the PC. I know there was one developed for the Atari ST."

Albert Dayes tells Mike:

"I believe there is one called PC or X-tranformer or something similar to that. I think it was produced by the same company that made G emulator (Atari ST emulator for the PC)." Actually, the product is called "PC Xformer" (it's pronounced Pee Cee Transformer), and it is indeed from Branch Always Software. In its simplest form, it is software only (you can add a special floppy drive for it if you wish), and from what I hear it works quite well. The Atari ST version is called "ST Xformer". Don't worry, what Darek lacks in imagination, he more than makes up for in programming ability! <grin>

Mike also asks:

"I didn't know you could get a card that allows you to run Atari programs on the PC. Do you know anything about it and where it can be bought?"

Mitch Brown tells Mike:

"It is called the G emulator. I have thought of picking one up many times for myself. It is marketed and manufactured by a company called Branch Always Software. They are on the net, but I don't know their address. Just use Yahoo."

Kevin Tekel posts this little bit of chopped, re-formed, reconstituted pork product:

"From inside back cover of October 1996 Nintendo Power magazine (published

by Nintendo):

"64 reasons to play the Nintendo 64 instant win game: ..."

"reason 8: It's the world's first 64-bit video game system."

HAH! LIAR! Obviously Nintendo of America, Inc. has never heard of the ATARI JAGUAR. A fully 64-bit video game system designed in 1993!!

(Let's not forget the Atari Lynx... a 16-bit color hand-held video game system introduced in 1989, while intendo is still selling 8-bit lack & white hand-held systems!!)"

Raymond Rodgers posts...

"...Some news taken from
<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Park/4106/newgames.html>, an obviously Jaguar oriented website, but it's info none the less.

New game information

Here are some new games that are coming out soon! Check them out and see which ones are for you.

Towers II
BattleSphere
Worms
Breakout 2000
Zero-5

NEW!

I've spoken with Telegames and GO ATARI.....They state that the following games will be entering production later this week (8th oct.):

Towers II by JV Games
Breakout 2000 by Atari
Zero Five by Atari
Worms by Team 17....published by Telegames..

That's them....a KILLER line-up if ya ask me! I've been dying to play NEW Jaguar games! Long Live the Jaguar! Towers II is said to be available in the 2nd or 3rd week of November....can't wait!

4-Play went in and added a whole new mode of gameplay to BattleSphere! They expect a few more weeks of cding, then it should take around a month to put it through production. There is talk of a new Jaguar developer....He states that he's working on 4 new Jag titles which sounded great, at the same time.....how he's going to get these published is a mystery. That's all the news for now..."

Tom Harker of ICD and 4-PLAY tells Raymond:

"I think everyone left in a publishing position will be closely watching the success or failures of this new batch of games published by Telegames and of BattleSere by 4Play. If there is enough support left in the userbase so we don't lose money, then I am sure that someone will be interested in publishing completed titles."

Well folks, I know that this week's column is short, but that's most of the worthwhile stuff this week. Tune in again next week, same time, same

station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

A Brightly Shining Republican Light!

April 11, 1991.

Vice President Dan Quayle hails America's Gulf triumph as.

"a stirring victory for the forces of aggression."

DUH!

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